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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. EMMER of Minnesota).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 1, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM EMMER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, the Chair would now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. COMSTOCK) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Merciful God, through whom we see what we could be and what we can become, thank You for giving us another day.

Send Your spirit upon the Members of this people's House to encourage them in their official tasks. Be with them and with all who labor here to serve this great Nation and its people.

Assure them that whatever their responsibilities, You provide the grace to enable them to be faithful in their duties and the wisdom to be conscious of their obligations and fulfill them with integrity.

Remind us all of the dignity of work, and teach us to use our talents and abilities in ways that are honorable and just and are of benefit to those we serve.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

STATE OF THE UNION INCONSISTENCIES

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, the President's actions are inconsistent with his words of the State of the Union.

His praise of job growth is undermined by ObamaCare, which the OMB has identified will destroy over 2 million jobs.

His concerns for more gun control was a contradiction at the Capitol, which was properly awash with brave officers protecting everyone with guns.

His distortion of voter photo identification laws clashes with the requirement of visitor photo identification to enter the White House. Security to prevent voter fraud and security to prevent assault on our President are basic for democracy.

His professed opposition to ISIS terrorists is undermined by his pardoning prisoners from Guantanamo who will rejoin terrorists to kill American families using guns.

His devotion to Syrian refugees was sadly undermined by his failure to enforce a red line, resulting in children fleeing violence drowning at sea.

Finally, as I left the Capitol from the speech, I saw immediate inconsistency of a fleet of stretch limousines waiting for the President. As he attacked the oil and gas industry, he departed thanks to fuel developed by the oil and gas industry.

The President should change course for limited government and expanded freedom.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and the President, by his actions, should never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 3:15 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.
Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Printed on recycled paper.

□ 1514

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee) at 3 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

FAIR INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFESSIONAL EXPERTS ACT

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2187) to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise its regulations regarding the qualifications of natural persons as accredited investors, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2187

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Fair Investment Opportunities for Professional Experts Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF ACCREDITED INVESTOR.

Section 2(a)(15) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77b(a)(15) is amended—

(1) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subparagraphs (A) and (F), respectively;

(2) in subparagraph (A) (as so redesignated), by striking ''; or'' and inserting a semicolon, and inserting after such subparagraph the following:

''(B) any natural person whose individual net worth, or joint net worth with that person's spouse, exceeds $1,000,000 (which amount, along with the amounts set forth in subparagraph (C), shall be adjusted for inflation by the Commission every five years to the nearest $10,000 to reflect the change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics) where, for purposes of calculating net worth under this subparagraph—

''(i) the person's primary residence shall not be included as an asset;

''(ii) indebtedness that is secured by the person's primary residence, up to the estimated fair market value of the primary residence at the time of the sale of securities, shall not be included as a liability (except that if the amount of such indebtedness outstanding at the time of sale of securities exceeds the amount outstanding 60 days before such time, other than as a result of the acquisition of the primary residence, the amount of such excess shall be included as a liability); and

''(iii) indebtedness that is secured by the person's primary residence in excess of the estimated fair market value of the primary residence at the time of the sale of securities shall be included as a liability;

''(C) any natural person who had an individual income in excess of $200,000 in each of the two most recent years or joint income with that person's spouse in excess of $300,000 in each of those years and has a reasonable expectation of reaching the same income level in the current year;

''(D) any natural person who is currently licensed or registered as a broker or investment adviser by the Commission, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, or an equivalent self-regulatory organization (as defined in section 3(a)(26) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934), or the securities division of a State or the equivalent State division responsible for licensing or registration of individuals in connection with securities activities;

''(E) any natural person the Commission determines, by regulation, to have demonstrable education or job experience to qualify such person as having professional knowledge of a subject related to a particular investment, and whose education or job experience is verified by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority or an equivalent self-regulatory organization (as defined in section 3(a)(26) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934); or''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) and the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CARNEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous materials on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2187, the Fair Investment Opportunities for Professional Experts Act.

I would like to thank Mr. SCHWEIKERT from Arizona for his diligent work on this bill and members on both sides of the aisle who approved this bill in the Financial Services Committee by an overwhelming vote of 54–2.

Mr. Speaker, small and emerging companies play a significant role as drivers of the U.S. economic activity, innovation, and job creation. In fact, the majority of net jobs created in the U.S. are from companies less than 5 years old. Most of these companies are privately held companies, and their ability to raise capital in the private market is critical to the economic well-being of the U.S. and millions of American families.

But in order for small companies to raise capital in the private market, under SEC regulations they must sell securities only to what are known as ''accredited investors.'' And what exactly determines whether an investor is accredited? Well, the SEC has for years determined that an individual investor's financial status should be the sole proxy for determining whether or not they are able to understand the risks and rewards.

In other words, the SEC has taken the position that only very wealthy individuals should be allowed to invest in such offerings. That really makes very little sense.

Under the SEC's logic, a random winner of the Powerball lottery would be automatically deemed a sophisticated investor. But an individual who holds advanced degrees and works in finance or a related field, but who happens to make slightly below what the SEC's threshold is, that person would be barred from investing in private offerings.

You see, despite the paternalistic view taken by Washington regulators, there are plenty—plenty—of hardworking and smart Americans who are plenty capable of understanding investments in private businesses.

Congress must, therefore, amend the definition of ''accredited investor'' in order to expand the pool of potential investors in a private placement market.

H.R. 2187 will do just that by codifying the current accredited investor income and net worth thresholds, adjusted for inflation going forward. Additionally, it will extend accredited investor status to persons who the SEC determines have a demonstrable education or job experience to qualify as having professional subject matter knowledge related to that investment.

In other words, the expansion of the accredited definition will enhance small companies' ability to raise capital and to grow by increasing the pool of potential investors, while at the same time increase investment opportunities for more Americans. In fact, allowing more individuals to invest in both public and private companies could ultimately have the effect of decreasing the risk in these portfolios themselves.

Finally, as SEC Commissioner Mike Piwowar pointed out in a speech last year:

''By holding a diversified portfolio of assets, investors reap the benefits of diversification, that is, the risk of the portfolio as a whole is lower than the risk of any individual asset . . . if the correlations are low enough, the overall portfolio risk could actually decrease.''

Mr. Speaker, what that means is H.R. 2187 has a double benefit of affording American businesses more opportunities to raise capital, while actually providing hardworking Americans a greater opportunity to create wealth for themselves and their families. I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting H.R. 2187.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me first thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr.

SCHWEIKERT) and the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) for their hard work on this bill. As was pointed out by Chairman GARRETT, all the votes in the committee were in support of the bill, except for two.

This legislation expands the definition of a ''accredited investor,'' a status reserved for investors who possess the sophistication and financial means necessary to invest in private, unregistered securities offerings.

Many of these thresholds have not been updated, Mr. Speaker, since 1982, and the committee determined it was past time to do so.

It is important to note that the SEC Investor Advisory Committee as well issued bipartisan recommendations, which acknowledge that the current income and net worth tests ''don't begin to measure the type or level of financial sophistication needed to evaluate the potential risks and benefits of private offerings.''

We can all agree, and a vast majority of the members of the Financial Services Committee did agree, that an updated definition is long overdue. The authors of this legislation and the sponsors, Mr. SCHWEIKERT and Ms. SINEMA, have worked to consider the risks of private offerings to ensure that investors in those offerings can understand and bear those risks.

With those comments, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT), the sponsor of the underlying legislation, and the gentleman who has put all the time and hard work on this great bipartisan piece of legislation.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman, and I also thank my friend, Mr. CARNEY.

This is one of those occasions where we actually get to show up here and have something that is bipartisan that we agree upon. But partially because being my piece of legislation, and something we have been working on for a while, I would like to tell a quick story of where this sort of came from conceptually.

About 4 years ago, we were doing a little townhall at that time before redistricting in Tempe, Arizona, and most of the discussion in this townhall was a discussion about the haves and have nots, and why do some people seem to be making wealth and others are not. We sort of tried to actually address it intellectually with some analysis of what are the barriers out there. You are a middle income, hardworking family, and you have some talents; what is your optionality to be able to grow into that next tier of assets, of wealth? This actually became part of that discussion, that we actually have had this barrier now for decades that say we are going to judge you on your income and your wealth and that income and wealth is your threshold that says you get to invest in something over here, not your knowledge.

There was a gentleman in the audience who stood up and said: I have got a story for you. I have a Ph.D. in electrical engineering. I work at the Intel plant in Chandler. I have some friends that started a business a year or two ago. I am an expert. I have a Ph.D. in electrical engineering and I worked with these guys for years. They started a business, and I am not allowed to invest in it because I don't meet the income and assets threshold.

That is partially what we have accomplished here. The neat thing that has gone back and forth in discussion with my Democrat friends and many of my friends on our side working the bill—it is not everything I wanted—but conceptually it is a terrific idea that income, your wealth is not the only prerequisite for your right to invest in something, that it also can be your knowledge and your talent. If we really care about everyone getting a fair chance at that American Dream, we need to do more like this where you get judged by what you know, your expertise, and not just the fact that you already have made it.

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Jersey has 14½ minutes remaining.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL).

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman, and Mr. CARNEY, my colleague on the distinguished minority, for this bill. I also want to thank Mr. SCHWEIKERT for his work on developing H.R. 2187, Fair Investment Opportunities for Professional Experts Act, which makes reg D offerings and private placements more effective by broadening the definition of an accredited investor to account for educational or professional expertise.

Because of significant costs and barriers to raising capital in the U.S. public markets, many of our small companies raise start-up funds or expansion funds in the private market, and many of those private market transactions are through accredited investors.

The current definition focuses only on financial status of the investor, and as a result, only wealthy individuals typically can participate in reg D offerings.

H.R. 2187 expands the accredited investor definition, recognizing that the ability to participate is not based on an asset test, but on their sophistication and knowledge.

I have been in this business before I was in Congress on and off for three decades, and I know that many of our Nation's accountants, stock brokers, venture capitalists, and engineers have money management experience or have a series 7 FINRA license, they work in money management, they work in specific kinds of industries, but they are not able to invest in private placements due to the fact that they don't meet this income or asset test.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT's bill revises these rules so that investment and finance professionals who have this kind of level of professional sophistication are now treated as accredited investors, irrespective of whether they meet an arbitrary test.

It is a matter, Mr. Speaker, of basic fairness. The government should not limit investing options to only investors they deem worthy.

Expanding the accredited investor definition will not only increase investment opportunities for more Americans, but will help us grow thousands of small and emerging markets that struggle to raise capital.

I thank the gentleman from Arizona for all of his work on this commonsense legislation. I enjoyed working with him on it.

I am proud to support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do so.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 10 seconds to again thank Mr. CARNEY, and especially the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) for his work on this.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2187, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SEC SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE ACT OF 2016

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3784) to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to establish an Office of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation and a Small Business Capital Formation Advisory Committee, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3784

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''SEC Small Business Advocate Act of 2016''.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE OF THE ADVOCATE FOR SMALL BUSINESS CAPITAL FORMATION AND SMALL BUSINESS CAPITAL FORMATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) OFFICE OF THE ADVOCATE FOR SMALL BUSINESS CAPITAL FORMATION.—Section 4 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15

U.S.C. 78d) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(j) OFFICE OF THE ADVOCATE FOR SMALL BUSINESS CAPITAL FORMATION.—

''(1) OFFICE ESTABLISHED.—There is established within the Commission the Office of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation (hereafter in this subsection referred to as the 'Office').

''(2) ADVOCATE FOR SMALL BUSINESS CAPITAL FORMATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The head of the Office shall be the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation, who shall—

''(i) report directly to the Commission; and

''(ii) be appointed by the Commission, from among individuals having experience in advocating for the interests of small businesses and encouraging small business capital formation.

''(B) COMPENSATION.—The annual rate of pay for the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation shall be equal to the highest rate of annual pay for other senior executives who report directly to the Commission.

''(C) NO CURRENT EMPLOYEE OF THE COMMISSION.—An individual may not be appointed as the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation if the individual is currently employed by the Commission.

''(3) STAFF OF OFFICE.—The Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation, after consultation with the Commission, may retain or employ independent counsel, research staff, and service staff, as the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation determines to be necessary to carry out the functions of the Office.

''(4) FUNCTIONS OF THE ADVOCATE FOR SMALL BUSINESS CAPITAL FORMATION.—The Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation shall—

''(A) assist small businesses and small business investors in resolving significant problems such businesses and investors may have with the Commission or with self-regulatory organizations;

''(B) identify areas in which small businesses and small business investors would benefit from changes in the regulations of the Commission or the rules of self-regulatory organizations;

''(C) identify problems that small businesses have with securing access to capital, including any unique challenges to minority-owned and women-owned small businesses;

''(D) analyze the potential impact on small businesses and small business investors of—

''(i) proposed regulations of the Commission that are likely to have a significant economic impact on small businesses and small business capital formation; and

''(ii) proposed rules that are likely to have a significant economic impact on small businesses and small business capital formation of self-regulatory organizations registered under this title;

''(E) conduct outreach to small businesses and small business investors, including through regional roundtables, in order to solicit views on relevant capital formation issues;

''(F) to the extent practicable, propose to the Commission changes in the regulations or orders of the Commission and to Congress any legislative, administrative, or personnel changes that may be appropriate to mitigate problems identified under this paragraph and to promote the interests of small businesses and small business investors;

''(G) consult with the Investor Advocate on proposed recommendations made under subparagraph (F); and

''(H) advise the Investor Advocate on issues related to small businesses and small business investors.

''(5) ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS.—The Commission shall ensure that the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation has full access to the documents and information of the Commission and any self-regulatory organization, as necessary to carry out the functions of the Office.

''(6) ANNUAL REPORT ON ACTIVITIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than December 31 of each year after 2015, the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation shall submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives a report on the activities of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation during the immediately preceding fiscal year.

''(B) CONTENTS.—Each report required under subparagraph (A) shall include—

''(i) appropriate statistical information and full and substantive analysis;

''(ii) information on steps that the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation has taken during the reporting period to improve small business services and the responsiveness of the Commission and self-regulatory organizations to small business and small business investor concerns;

''(iii) a summary of the most serious issues encountered by small businesses and small business investors, including any unique issues encountered by minority-owned and women-owned small businesses and their investors, during the reporting period;

''(iv) an inventory of the items summarized under clause (iii) (including items summarized under such clause for any prior reporting period on which no action has been taken or that have not been resolved to the satisfaction of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation as of the beginning of the reporting period covered by the report) that includes—

''(I) identification of any action taken by the Commission or the self-regulatory organization and the result of such action;

''(II) the length of time that each item has remained on such inventory; and

''(III) for items on which no action has been taken, the reasons for inaction, and an identification of any official who is responsible for such action;

''(v) recommendations for such changes to the regulations, guidance and orders of the Commission and such legislative actions as may be appropriate to resolve problems with the Commission and self-regulatory organizations encountered by small businesses and small business investors and to encourage small business capital formation; and

''(vi) any other information, as determined appropriate by the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation.

''(C) CONFIDENTIALITY.—No report required by subparagraph (A) may contain confidential information.

''(D) INDEPENDENCE.—Each report required under subparagraph (A) shall be provided directly to the committees of Congress listed in such subparagraph without any prior review or comment from the Commission, any commissioner, any other officer or employee of the Commission, or the Office of Management and Budget.

''(7) REGULATIONS.—The Commission shall establish procedures requiring a formal response to all recommendations submitted to the Commission by the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation, not later than 3 months after the date of such submission.

''(8) GOVERNMENT-BUSINESS FORUM ON SMALL BUSINESS CAPITAL FORMATION.—The Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation shall be responsible for planning, organizing, and executing the annual Government-Business Forum on Small Business Capital Formation described in section 503 of the Small Business Investment Incentive Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 80c–1).

''(9) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed as replacing or reducing the responsibilities of the Investor Advocate with respect to small business investors.''.

(b) SMALL BUSINESS CAPITAL FORMATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—Title I of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 40. SMALL BUSINESS CAPITAL FORMATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Commission the Small Business Capital Formation Advisory Committee (hereafter in this section referred to as the 'Committee').

''(2) FUNCTIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall provide the Commission with advice on the Commission's rules, regulations, and policies with regard to the Commission's mission of protecting investors, maintaining fair, orderly, and efficient markets, and facilitating capital formation, as such rules, regulations, and policies relate to—

''(i) capital raising by emerging, privately held small businesses ('emerging companies') and publicly traded companies with less than $250,000,000 in public market capitalization ('smaller public companies') through securities offerings, including private and limited offerings and initial and other public offerings;

''(ii) trading in the securities of emerging companies and smaller public companies; and

''(iii) public reporting and corporate governance requirements of emerging companies and smaller public companies.

''(B) LIMITATION.—The Committee shall not provide any advice with respect to any policies, practices, actions, or decisions concerning the Commission's enforcement program.

''(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The members of the Committee shall be—

''(A) the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation;

''(B) not fewer than 10, and not more than 20, members appointed by the Commission, from among individuals—

''(i) who represent—

''(I) emerging companies engaging in private and limited securities offerings or considering initial public offerings ('IPO') (including the companies' officers and directors);

''(II) the professional advisors of such companies (including attorneys, accountants, investment bankers, and financial advisors); and

''(III) the investors in such companies (including angel investors, venture capital funds, and family offices);

''(ii) who are officers or directors of minority-owned small businesses or women-owned small businesses;

''(iii) who represent—

''(I) smaller public companies (including the companies' officers and directors);

''(II) the professional advisors of such companies (including attorneys, auditors, underwriters, and financial advisors); and

''(III) the pre-IPO and post-IPO investors in such companies (both institutional, such as venture capital funds, and individual, such as angel investors); and

''(iv) who represent participants in the marketplace for the securities of emerging companies and smaller public companies, such as securities exchanges, alternative trading systems, analysts, information processors, and transfer agents; and

''(C) 3 non-voting members—

''(i) 1 of whom shall be appointed by the Investor Advocate;

''(ii) 1 of whom shall be appointed by the North American Securities Administrators Association; and

''(iii) 1 of whom shall be appointed by the Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

''(2) TERM.—Each member of the Committee appointed under subparagraph (B), (C)(ii), or (C)(iii) of paragraph (1) shall serve for a term of 4 years.

''(3) MEMBERS NOT COMMISSION EMPLOYEES.—Members appointed under subparagraph (B), (C)(ii), or (C)(iii) of paragraph (1) shall not be treated as employees or agents of the Commission solely because of membership on the Committee.

''(c) CHAIRMAN; VICE CHAIRMAN; SECRETARY; ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The members of the Committee shall elect, from among the members of the Committee—

''(A) a chairman;

''(B) a vice chairman;

''(C) a secretary; and

''(D) an assistant secretary.

''(2) TERM.—Each member elected under paragraph (1) shall serve for a term of 3 years in the capacity for which the member was elected under paragraph (1).

''(d) MEETINGS.—

''(1) FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS.—The Committee shall meet—

''(A) not less frequently than four times annually, at the call of the chairman of the Committee; and

''(B) from time to time, at the call of the Commission.

''(2) NOTICE.—The chairman of the Committee shall give the members of the Committee written notice of each meeting, not later than 2 weeks before the date of the meeting.

''(e) COMPENSATION AND TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member of the Committee who is not a full-time employee of the United States shall—

''(1) be entitled to receive compensation at a rate not to exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay in effect for a position at level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code, for each day during which the member is engaged in the actual performance of the duties of the Committee; and

''(2) while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of services for the Committee, be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in the Government service are allowed expenses under section 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

''(f) STAFF.—The Commission shall make available to the Committee such staff as the chairman of the Committee determines are necessary to carry out this section.

''(g) REVIEW BY COMMISSION.—The Commission shall—

''(1) review the findings and recommendations of the Committee; and

''(2) each time the Committee submits a finding or recommendation to the Commission, promptly issue a public statement—

''(A) assessing the finding or recommendation of the Committee; and

''(B) disclosing the action, if any, the Commission intends to take with respect to the finding or recommendation.

''(h) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply with respect to the Committee and its activities.''.

(c) ANNUAL GOVERNMENT-BUSINESS FORUM ON SMALL BUSINESS CAPITAL FORMATION.—Section 503(a) of the Small Business Investment Incentive Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 80c–1(a)) is amended by inserting ''(acting through the Office of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation and in consultation with the Small Business Capital Formation Advisory Committee)'' after ''Securities and Exchange Commission''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) and the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CARNEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material with regard to this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

□ 1530

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 3784, the SEC Small Business Advocate Act.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CARNEY) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY) of the Financial Services Committee, as well as the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) of the Appropriations Committee, for working together in a bipartisan manner on this bill. In doing so, it has resulted in the Financial Services Committee's favorably reporting H.R. 3784 out of committee by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Speaker, the SEC has a three-part mission: to protect investors, to maintain fair and orderly and efficient markets, and to also facilitate capital formation. Yet, if you think about it, the SEC has really given a short shrift to the capital formation part of its statutory mandate, and it is to the detriment of entrepreneurs and to the startup ventures.

Although small companies are at the proverbial forefront of technological innovation and also of job creation, they often face significant obstacles in obtaining the necessary capital and funding. These obstacles, if you will, are often attributable to the proportionally large burden that security regulations place on them. They are often written for large public companies, and they are placed then on small companies which then seek to go public.

By failing to fulfill this important part of its mandated mission, the SEC is basically hurting the small companies. It is impeding economic growth, and it is basically hindering job creation, which is so desperately needed in this country. When the SEC has failed to advance its mission in facilitating capital formation, Congress has stepped into this vacuum, most notably through the enactment of the JOBS Act back in 2012. You see, while the JOBS Act has made it easier for these companies to go public, the JOBS Act alone has not been enough. It has not been enough to entirely overcome all of the obstacles that the companies face in trying to go public.

So now we have H.R. 3784. It creates the SEC small business capital formation advocate, and he will provide an independent voice for small business capital formation on par with the SEC's investor advocate. This new advocate will support the interests of small businesses and provide guidance to the SEC on advancing a post-JOBS Act capital formation agenda, something that, unfortunately, if you look at the track record, the SEC has failed to do for years. The small business advocate will support the interests not only of entrepreneurs and of job creators, but they will do so also on behalf of investors.

Finally, it is clear that fundamental change is needed within the SEC in order to get this agency to focus on the capital formation mandate. H.R. 3784 will provide a permanent voice for small businesses at the SEC, and it will help them ensure that the SEC does not neglect, anymore, this important mandate in the future.

Again, I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 3784 in a bipartisan manner, just as was done in committee.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I begin by thanking all of those who have worked with us to introduce and to improve this legislation. I especially want to thank my colleague and friend, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY), who will speak in a minute, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW), and all of our other cosponsors, as well as the SEC, for their work on this bill. Due to their help and the bipartisan work on our committee, this legislation received a unanimous vote out of committee, as the gentleman from New Jersey pointed out.

Mr. Speaker, small businesses are the cornerstones of our communities, and they are a major driver of American economic job growth. In fact, small businesses create over 60 percent of new jobs in the United States, which is the main point here. If we want to help businesses create jobs, we need to help small businesses.

From one's employment to one's shopping needs, every American relies on small business in some way or another. Given the crucial part they play in our economy, ensuring their success just makes common sense. That is what this bill is—just a commonsense, bipartisan bill to help small businesses across our great country.

Despite the important role that small businesses have in driving economic growth and job creation, they can be underrepresented in conversations about regulations affecting them at every level of government, and their

concerns are not always heard. This doesn't just harm small businesses. It can also adversely impact investors and the public at large.

The SEC has done an admirable job in supporting and in advancing the priorities of small businesses. This bill, the SEC Small Business Advocate Act, simply gives the SEC more tools to understand their needs and concerns. The SEC Small Business Advocate Act mirrors provisions found in the Dodd-Frank bill, which created the current Office of the Investor Advocate.

This advocate would open clear avenues of communication to SEC leadership on issues affecting small-business owners, investors, and stakeholders. It would also help continue the reforms and progress that Congress made in passing the JOBS Act, which the gentleman from New Jersey mentioned, including with issues such as equity crowdfunding and ideas for venture exchanges and changes to tick size, which the gentleman from Wisconsin and I have worked on over the past year.

With the resources provided in H.R. 3784, the SEC will have the ability to pursue meaningful regulatory improvements that could significantly improve outcomes for small businesses and help them with their access to capital, which is needed to grow and create jobs.

I am very encouraged that the House has chosen to take up this bipartisan piece of legislation today and that we are moving forward to ensure a voice for small business at the SEC.

Again, I thank the SEC for its help on this issue and a special thanks to my friend and colleague, Congressman DUFFY.

I urge all of my colleagues, as the members of the Financial Services Committee have, to vote ''yes'' on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY).

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, given that small businesses have accounted for over 60 percent of the net new jobs created since the end of the recession, we should be doing more to simplify regulatory compliance so that small businesses can direct their resources to what they do best: innovating and growing our economy.

Small businesses and small business investors were not the cause of the financial crisis and do not pose a significant risk to the rest of the economy. Yet, regulators like the SEC, which oversee the financial markets, too often craft regulations by which the costs to small businesses far outweigh the minimal benefits they may have on our economy. We need our regulators to take the concerns of small businesses seriously and to make small business growth a top priority.

That is why I was proud to coauthor the SEC Small Business Advocate Act, which will establish an Office of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation within the SEC. This office will open a clear avenue of communication to the SEC leadership on issues affecting small businesses by maintaining a designated representative to advocate on their needs.

This advocate will be responsible for helping small businesses resolve problems with the SEC, analyzing the potential impact of proposed rules and regulations on small businesses, and reaching out to small businesses to understand issues related to capital formation. In addition, this bill formalizes the Advisory Committee on Small and Emerging Companies, which provides members of the small business community with another mechanism to communicate their concerns with the SEC. This legislation will not only improve the regulatory process for small-business owners, but also for the everyday investors and consumers who depend on them.

This legislation has widespread support from representatives of the business community, and it passed unanimously out of committee. I urge my colleagues to empower small-business owners and entrepreneurs and support this commonsense, bipartisan legislation.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I close by again asking my colleagues to follow the example of the Financial Services Committee and vote unanimously to support this bill, which will help small businesses to access capital and to get the advice they need from the SEC.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Again, I commend the gentleman for his work on this legislation and for the bipartisan nature of this and of most of the bills, actually, that will be coming to the floor today that were passed out of committee in a bipartisan manner.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3784, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SMALL BUSINESS CAPITAL FORMATION ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4168) to amend the Small Business Investment Incentive Act of 1980 to require an annual review by the Securities and Exchange Commission of the annual government-business forum on capital formation that is held pursuant to such Act.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4168

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Small Business Capital Formation Enhancement Act''.

SEC. 2. ANNUAL REVIEW OF GOVERNMENT-BUSINESS FORUM ON CAPITAL FORMATION.

Section 503 of the Small Business Investment Incentive Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 80c–1) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) The Commission shall—

''(1) review the findings and recommendations of the forum; and

''(2) each time the forum submits a finding or recommendation to the Commission, promptly issue a public statement—

''(A) assessing the finding or recommendation of the forum; and

''(B) disclosing the action, if any, the Commission intends to take with respect to the finding or recommendation.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) and the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CARNEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 4168, the Small Business Capital Formation Enhancement Act.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Maine (Mr. POLIQUIN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS) for their bipartisan work on this bill. I go off script here just to say thank you very much to Mr. POLIQUIN, who has been a very active member on this committee from the very beginning and has been very active in making sure this legislation has come to the floor today. I thank the gentleman.

As I said before, this bill came out of committee, due much in part to the gentleman's work, with an overwhelming bipartisan vote. I believe it was 55–1; so the gentleman just has that one to work on for his next piece of legislation that comes out of committee.

Mr. Speaker, Congress created the SEC Government-Business Forum on Small Business Capital Formation—to do what?—to provide a platform to identify unnecessary impediments to small business capital formation and to find ways to eliminate or to reduce them. Each forum seeks to develop recommendations for government and private action to improve and provide the

environment for small business capital formation, thereby providing small businesses the opportunity—to do what?—to grow economically and, most importantly, as we have been talking all day, to create more jobs.

Unfortunately, the SEC's default position over these several years has been to simultaneously and summarily ignore many of the recommendations made by the various forum participants, which include small businesses, venture capitalists, trade association representatives, accountants, academics, and other small business academics.

Despite the claims of which we hear every year from the Commission about the importance of this forum, it seems that the only time the SEC actually implements one of these capital formation agenda items that comes out of it is when Congress tells it to do so. This was certainly the case with several provisions of the JOBS Act, many of which, as one will recall, were original recommendations from that very same forum. I will give two examples. There was the crowdfunding and the Regulation A-Plus provisions of the JOBS Act. They basically mirrored the forum's recommendations years earlier.

The Small Business Capital Formation Enhancement Act, which is before us today, provides an answer. It basically provides a simple solution to making the SEC more responsive. It requires the SEC to respond publicly and in writing to each forum recommendation and to simply explain whether it plans to take action on that item or not.

It really shouldn't take an act of Congress for the SEC to fulfill its basic capital formation mission. Quite honestly, it shouldn't take an act of Congress for the SEC to simply respond in writing to any of the forum recommendations. Unfortunately, this is the position we find ourselves in today; so we have H.R. 4168, which is the gentleman from Maine's work, which will ensure that the SEC no longer ignores these recommendations and will be able to help fulfill its statutory mission to facilitate capital formation in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1545

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to add my thanks and congratulations as well to the gentleman from Maine (Mr. POLIQUIN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS) for their bipartisan work on this bill. This legislation, as was pointed out, passed out of the Financial Services Committee with all but one vote.

The SEC's Government-Business Forum on Capital Formation brings together academics, government officials, legal experts, and business stakeholders to make recommendations to improve and facilitate small-business capital formation.

By directly addressing the recommendations of the forum, the SEC will help refine ideas and provide future forums with opportunities to address the SEC's views or concerns, ultimately leading to a more constructive and valuable process.

This legislation will enhance the role of the forum and assist the SEC to focus on the capital needs of small businesses, which, as we have discussed several times today, are the main drivers of job creation in our economy, while simultaneously encouraging participants to substantively engage in the forum.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this bipartisan piece of legislation and thank the sponsors for their hard work.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I have already given him compliments, as many as I am going to give on the floor. I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maine (Mr. POLIQUIN) because he has been an outstanding member of the committee and is the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman GARRETT for bringing this very important bill to the floor. I also want to extend my congratulations to Congressman JUAN VARGAS of California. He has done a terrific job being the lead cosponsor of the Small Business Capital Formation Enhancement Act.

All of us in this Chamber who also are small-business owners understand how important it is to have access to money, to funds, to capital, in order for our businesses to be successful, to grow, and ultimately to hire more people. This is true in Maine's Second District that I represent and also across the country.

It is all about jobs. Unless your business grows and expands, then you don't have jobs. So it is very, very important to have that key ingredient to small-business growth, which is access to capital or to money.

Now, if you are one of the greatest papermakers in the world—and we have a lot, Mr. Speaker, up in Maine's Second District—and you work for a paper company up in Madawaska, Maine, or Madison, Maine, you still depend on your company—it might not be a small company—to make sure you have access to the stock and bond markets, to be able to borrow the funds they need to expand and be successful, and to make sure we can secure your job.

Now, if you are a small-business owner, which really dominates the landscape in Maine and across the country—let's say you are a boatbuilder in Ellsworth, Maine—you still need access to capital in order to grow. If you are a biotech startup company in Lewiston, Maine, the same holds true.

You know, 80 percent of the new jobs created in our country today are not large companies, but they are small companies. That is where the problem lies as far as access to funding is concerned. I am not worried as much about the big companies having access to the capital markets, but I do worry about our small businesses.

Now, as both Mr. CARNEY and Mr. GARRETT have mentioned, during each of the past 35 years, the Securities and Exchange Commission, by law, has been required and has put together an annual government-business forum.

During this annual meeting, they get the most experienced professionals they can find—businessowners, SEC attorneys, private sector attorneys—to review the current laws we have on the books today to make sure they are not impeding our small businesses' ability to borrow money and have access to capital in other ways.

Now, these forums also are a tremendous incubator of coming up with new ideas to make sure our laws evolve. Our capital markets, Mr. Speaker, in our economy are very dynamic. Businesses grow and they change, and new products are offered and sold.

So there are new needs for capital going forward. We have to make sure that the actual laws that are the underpinning of our capital markets, the underpinning of our economy, also evolve. So these annual business-government forums are very important venues for this to happen.

Now, as has been said here earlier, unfortunately, the SEC has no legal requirement to make sure all the terrific recommendations that come out of these annual forums are acted upon or not. In fact, it is very common for the SEC not to comment at all on all of the work done to bring these new ideas to the forefront.

So my legislation, I am proud to say, comes up with a very commonsense fix. It simply requires the SEC to make a public statement on what it is going to do to embrace these recommended changes or not. It is very simple. Otherwise, these ideas, Mr. Speaker, sit on the shelf.

Now, my bill also has the ancillary benefit of making sure that each new forum each year doesn't repeat what we just did the year before. By having a benchmark every year, by addressing the recommendations that come out of these meetings, then we are able to spring forward and move down the path where we left off the year before.

I want to thank the Speaker and the chairman very much for bringing this important bill to the floor. I am delighted to work with Mr. VARGAS on this. He has done one heck of a job.

It is so important for everybody in this Chamber to please stand up for small businesses across the country, to make sure they have access to the money they need to grow, be successful, and hire more workers. It is all about jobs.

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank and congratulate the sponsor and cosponsor again. I have no further requests for time.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER).

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, small businesses are critical to job creation and sustainable economic growth in America.

In my home State of Minnesota, 1.2 million workers—nearly half of our State's private workforce—is employed by a small business. When one of the more than 500,000 small businesses in Minnesota contacts our office, it is most often about how well-intended, yet short-sighted, regulations are inhibiting their ability to utilize the financial products they rely on.

In order to ensure the creation and growth of small business, it is imperative that we do our job in Washington to make certain they have access to the capital they need.

Since 1980, the Securities and Exchange Commission has been required to conduct a government-business forum each year to present and discuss ways to improve small business capital formation. However, the SEC is under no legal obligation, as we have heard several times today, to respond to any of the findings or recommendations that come out of these forums.

That is why the Small Business Capital Formation Enhancement Act is so important. The proposed legislation will require the SEC to respond to the findings and recommendations made at these annual government-business forums. This will ensure that the ideas formulated at these government-business forums will be carefully considered at the SEC and possibly even implemented.

I want to thank Representatives BRUCE POLIQUIN and JUAN VARGAS for their hard work on behalf of consumers and small business.

I urge my colleagues to support the Small Business Capital Formation Enhancement Act.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4168.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

TREATMENT OF CERTAIN MUNICIPAL OBLIGATIONS

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2209) to require the appropriate Federal banking agencies to treat certain municipal obligations as level 2A liquid assets, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2209

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN MUNICIPAL OBLIGATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 18 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1828) is amended—

(1) by moving subsection (z) so that it appears after subsection (y); and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(aa) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN MUNICIPAL OBLIGATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of the final rule titled 'Liquidity Coverage Ratio: Liquidity Risk Measurement Standards; Final Rule' (79 Fed. Reg. 61439; published October 10, 2014) (the 'Final Rule') and any other regulation which incorporates a definition of the term 'high-quality liquid asset', the appropriate Federal banking agencies shall treat a municipal obligation that is both liquid and readily marketable (as defined in the Final Rule) and investment grade as of the calculation date as a high-quality liquid asset that is a level 2A liquid asset.

''(2) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection:

''(A) INVESTMENT GRADE.—With respect to an obligation, the term 'investment grade' has the meaning given that term under part 1 of title 12, Code of Federal Regulations.

''(B) MUNICIPAL OBLIGATION.—The term 'municipal obligation' means an obligation of a State or any political subdivision thereof, or any agency or instrumentality of a State or any political subdivision thereof.''.

(b) AMENDMENT TO LIQUIDITY COVERAGE RATIO REGULATIONS.—Not later than the end of the 3-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and the Comptroller of the Currency shall amend the final rule titled ''Liquidity Coverage Ratio: Liquidity Risk Measurement Standards; Final Rule'' (79 Fed. Reg. 61439; published October 10, 2014) to implement the amendments made by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) and the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CARNEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 2209. I will begin by thanking the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER) for all of his hard work on this legislation and his leadership as well, with pulling it through and getting it done right here at the beginning of this legislative year, and being a leader on this bill as well.

On the other side of the aisle, I thank the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) for working together with Mr. MESSER in a very bipartisan manner, which, as we have noted, has been on each and every one of the bills that we have presented today in that manner.

Their efforts culminated in the committee, favorably reporting this bill by a vote of 56 to 1. So, as I have said to Mr. POLIQUIN before, you have only one Member to go to get unanimous consent going forward.

Mr. Speaker, given the problems posed by insufficient liquidity during the past financial crisis, Federal regulators issued a final rule back in 2014 to implement something called liquidity coverage ratio, or LCR. That was being done consistent with something called the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision's standards.

The LCR was established on the premise that banks should have enough cash or assets that would be liquid enough when they needed them—and that would be defined as high-quality liquid assets, or HQLAs—and that we would have to have them on hand for 30 days if their usual sources of short-term funding would simply disappear.

It goes without saying, when you think about this, that anytime that the government steps in, or anytime you have a government agency favoring this type of asset over this type of asset through some sort of regulation in which they did it, you are going to end up with what? You are going to end up with basically unintended and undesirable consequences. That is what has happened here.

Not surprisingly, critics of the LCR have complained that the stock of HQLAs is defined way too narrowly, which could adversely impact the asset classes that we are talking about.

So investment-grade municipal securities, on the other hand, if you look at them closely—more than we could do right here on the floor right now—they basically share the same liquidity characteristics of other HQLAs. And that is what Mr. MESSER basically is trying to address with this great piece of legislation.

Other HQLAs, such as corporate bonds and equity securities, have the basic same characteristic here as far as liquidity goes. Yet, the prudential regulators, what do they do? They put them in one pile and excluded them from the final LCR.

While the Federal Reserve has acknowledged this problem and they acknowledge the fault in excluding municipal securities from this definition of HQLAs, the Federal Reserve's rule would only apply to the bank holding company's municipal securities and not the national banks, where more of these municipal securities are held.

Paul Kupiec, who is over at the American Enterprise Institute, in testimony before our committee back in October of last year on the bill, said it ''is appropriate and consistent with the public interest. There is no reason why high quality liquid bonds issued by the U.S. States and municipalities should receive a lower standing than foreign

sovereign debt with equivalent (or even lesser) credit quality and market liquidity.''

□ 1600

Think about that for a minute. We are basically, under the current situation, treating our municipalities and U.S. securities at a lower standard than foreign such securities, and we know how they have prevailed in the last year or so.

With that in mind, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2209, and the hard work of Mr. MESSER, as well, in this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY).

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support today for H.R. 2209. In sum, this bill levels the playing field for cities and States, saves cities and States hundreds of millions of dollars, and does it in a way that maintains the safety and soundness of our banking system.

I would first like to thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER), my friend, for his leadership on this issue. It has been a pleasure to work with him.

When we introduced this bill, we worked hard to have balanced, bipartisan support and to have broad support on both sides of the aisle. We introduced it with a coalition of five Republicans and five Democrats. On the Democratic side, we were joined by Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. MOORE, and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. From the Republican side, we had Mr. KING of New York, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. STIVERS, and Mr. HULTGREN.

This was truly a very strong, bipartisan bill. I would like to thank all of our colleagues who joined with us. It passed out of the Committee on Financial Services by a strong vote of 56–1, which shows that we had overwhelming bipartisan support.

The purpose of this bill is to level the playing field for cities and States by requiring the banking regulators to treat certain municipal bonds as liquid assets, just like corporate bonds, stocks, and other assets.

As a former member of the City Council of New York, I know firsthand the importance of municipal bonds. They allow our States and cities to finance infrastructure, build schools, and pave roads. We have multimillions in municipal bonds in New York that is building the Second Avenue subway, revamping our water system, and helping in so many ways.

Unfortunately, in the banking regulators' liquidity rule, which requires banks to hold a minimum amount of liquid assets, they chose to allow corporate bonds to qualify as liquid assets but completely excluded municipal bonds, even municipal bonds that are just as liquid as corporate bonds. Even worse, they treat foreign securities differently than U.S. securities, municipal bonds.

This absolutely makes no sense. It effectively discriminates against municipal bonds. A municipal bond that is just as liquid as the most liquid corporate bond would not be counted as a liquid asset under the rule just because it was issued by a city or State rather than a corporate entity. This is not fair.

The Fed has already recognized this error. It is already amending its rule to allow certain municipal bonds to count as liquid assets. They should be praised for taking a second look at the data and recognizing that some municipal bonds are, in fact, highly liquid. But the OCC, which regulates national banks, is still refusing to amend its rule and insists on favoring corporations over cities and States. Mr. MESSER and I introduced this bill because this kind of arbitrary discrimination against cities and States cannot be allowed to continue.

A recent analysis by the investment bank Piper Jaffray estimated that our bill would lower borrowing costs for cities and States by 15 basis points, which would save cities and States hundreds of millions of dollars per year. That real-world impact is why this bill is so very, very important.

Now, it is important to note that this bill does not undermine safety and soundness. It does not require regulators to treat bonds that are illiquid as liquid. It simply says that municipal bonds should be afforded the same opportunity as corporate bonds.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. CARNEY. Mr Speaker, I yield such additional time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New York.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, this is an important bill. It will help the economy. It will help our cities and States. It levels the playing field for cities and States. It saves our cities and States, literally, hundreds of millions of dollars, and it maintains the safety and soundness of our banking system. That is why it had such a strong, overwhelming bipartisan vote in committee.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER), the sponsor of this piece of legislation.

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman, Mr. CARNEY, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York for their leadership on this bill.

What would you think if I told you that the Federal Government bureaucracy is favoring foreign bonds and corporate bonds over identically valued U.S. municipal bonds? It wouldn't make any sense.

Our Federal bureaucracy shouldn't create rules that favor loans to foreign countries over loans to our own local governments and schools, yet that is exactly what is happening under our broken Federal regulatory scheme.

Today's bill, H.R. 2209, would correct this problem. I am proud to have coauthored this bipartisan bill with Congresswoman MALONEY. I also want to thank my good friends—Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. PEARCE, the chairman, and others—who helped us in working on this bill. I ask my colleagues for their support.

It is really just common sense. U.S. municipal bonds are among the safest investments in the entire world. According to Municipal Market Analytics, over the last 5 years—a period, by the way, during which State and local governments struggled to recover from the recession—high-quality State and local government obligation defaults were only four one thousandths of 1 percent. Let me repeat that. The municipal bond default rate was four one thousandths of 1 percent during the recession. That is a pretty safe investment.

Public entities depend on this financing, too. State and local governments, school corporations, and public utility companies across the U.S. sell municipal bonds to finance the infrastructure and services that we all depend on. It is low-interest municipal bonds that finance new schools, hospitals, bridges, and roads, and pay for the repair of outdated and failing infrastructure. The needs are great.

In fact, according to the Society of Civil Engineers, State and local governments need $3.6 trillion to meet their infrastructure needs over the next 5 years. That is what is so disappointing about recent regulatory rules from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, and the Federal Reserve that will arbitrarily increase the costs for local governments and schools to borrow.

Specifically, as others have described, in 2014, Federal banking regulators issued a rule requiring banks to have enough high-quality liquid assets, HQLAs, to cover their cash outflows for 30 days in case of a future financial meltdown. For the most part, liquidity set-asides protect the consumer, and they make sense.

The problem is, in the same rule, they said that investment-grade U.S. municipal bonds don't count as HQLAs, while recognizing German subsovereign municipal debt and many corporate bonds as high-quality liquid assets that do qualify. That doesn't make any sense at all.

By excluding all American municipal securities from HQLA eligibility, financial institutions are discouraged from holding them. The result is increased interest rates and increased borrowing costs for State and local governments and the taxpayers that pay them.

This has a real impact on families when schools can no longer accommodate enrollment and local communities

when bridges crumble or roads fail because repair and new construction simply isn't financially feasible. This is particularly troubling because times are tough and budgets are tight across America.

Although the Federal Reserve continues to review this issue, so far the Fed's response has been partial and inadequate. The OCC and the FDIC have not addressed the issue at all. Meanwhile, our local governments remain strapped for cash and cannot wait for a bureaucratic solution.

Our commonsense bill, H.R. 2209, fixes this arbitrary decision by Federal regulators. The bill directs the FDIC, the Federal Reserve System, and the OCC to classify investment-grade municipal securities as level 2A, high-quality liquid assets.

Put simply, our bill requires the Federal Government to recognize the obvious: America's municipal bonds are some of the safest investments in the world, and we shouldn't have rules that give preferential treatment to corporate bonds or other countries' bonds over our own.

I want to thank Congresswoman MALONEY for working with me on this commonsense legislation.

I urge all my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

For those who work in the bond world, this bill ensures that a 2A asset is treated as a 2A asset and prevents federal regulators from arbitrarily under-valuing them.

Lastly, let me be clear, this bill doesn't give special treatment to our local governments bonds.

State and local governments remain required to satisfy their debts and live with their bond ratings.

This bill is, however, a comprehensive solution that restores fairness and recognizes investment grade municipal bonds for exactly what they are: safe, reliable investments that allow local governments to serve citizens and their families.

Once again, I want to thank Congresswoman MALONEY for working with me on this common sense legislation.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I would just close by thanking the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) for their work on this commonsense piece of legislation that will help towns, municipalities, and States across our country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I have two additional speakers.

I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maine (Mr. POLIQUIN).

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Speaker, again, I want to salute the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) for the great work that they have done on this bill. It is very important.

Mr. Speaker, I represent Maine's Second District, which is the west, central, northern, and down east parts of our great State. Now, when you drive in the State of Maine over some of our roads this winter, you see frost heaves and potholes and everything else. If you go on some of our bridges by the coast, you see there has been a lot of corrosiveness that has taken place on those bridges because they are so close to the salt water.

Now, it is so important to make sure that our State and our local governments have the opportunity to borrow the money they need to perform these very important infrastructure repairs.

When I was State Treasurer up in Maine, we used this process to sell high-quality, liquid municipal bonds to investors around the world. That would allow us to receive and secure the funding we need to, in fact, repair our roads and bridges. Maybe a small town needs to improve its sewage treatment facility or build a new landfill or improve its water treatment facility. Well, these high-quality, liquid municipal bonds provide the funds to do just that.

It is my opinion that banking regulators have made a mistake, Mr. Speaker, because they include in the liquidity coverage ratio stocks and corporate bonds and other government bonds, but they have left out high-quality liquid, tax-free municipal bonds from that list of securities that will qualify for the liquidity coverage ratio.

As has been mentioned here earlier before, sir, the municipal bond market in this country is a $3.7 trillion market. There are thousands of these bonds held in the hands of investors around the world. It is clearly right and appropriate for these bonds to be included in this list of assets such that banks can reach their liquidity coverage ratio.

In doing that, Mr. Speaker, and in fixing this problem that Mr. MESSER and Congresswoman MALONEY have found, in passing H.R. 2209, State and local governments across the country will continue to be able to have the funds they need to repair their own bridges and roads, not just those in Maine. This will keep interest payments down for our State and local governments, saving taxpayers millions of dollars.

One of the goals of government, of course, is to show fairness and compassion for those that pay the bills, the taxpayers across America.

I am rising in support of this bill, H.R. 2209. I encourage all my colleagues in the House, Republicans and Democrats, to please do the same.

Again, I congratulate the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) for their great work.

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Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE).

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. MESSER and Mrs. MALONEY for producing this balanced, bipartisan piece of legislation.

The State of New Mexico has a geographical area about the same as five Northeastern States. That area, though, has 55 million people to pay the taxes to build roads, to build infrastructure, and to build schools. In the equivalent geographical area, New Mexico has almost 2 million people to build all of those miles of roads.

Now, this is the effect of this legislation: it removes the financing mechanism that States like New Mexico use—those Western, lightly populated areas—municipal bonds to fund things like schools and roads and infrastructure. Yet the committee that decided what category these assets would fall into said that they are no good and that they are not going to count in the liquidity requirement for institutions.

What that means is $3.7 trillion will evaporate out of that municipal bond market. That is $3.7 trillion that would help us build infrastructure and help us create better living for everybody in the West. Yet this committee, which never visited New Mexico, appears not to have looked at the quality of assets.

Mrs. MALONEY, adequately, says it is not a question of safety and soundness. Mr. MESSER says that the default rate is four one-thousandths of 1 percent. They obviously did not look at the quality of the products. They simply said they are not going to qualify.

What that means is that financial institutions will no longer have incentive nor space under liquidity requirements to hold municipal obligations such as bonds. This is detrimental to the way of life in the West.

I would like to congratulate again Mrs. MALONEY and Mr. MESSER for bringing H.R. 2209 to us today to help be a partial cure to the problems that people from other countries have levied on us. It seems common sense; it seems useful; it seems good for the taxpayer and good for the country. Let's pass H.R. 2209.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Again, I want to thank Members on both sides of the aisle. I thank all the sponsors of not only this legislation, but all the legislation that we have had on the floor for the last hour here.

I was just thinking as this was wrapping up about what we will see when we leave here and look in the newspaper tomorrow and see what sort of media coverage Washington will get as to what we did on our first day back.

There is always a hue and cry saying that Washington is broken, there is no bipartisanship, and they are not passing any legislation to create jobs and trying to get the economy going again. You hear about that in the media all the time. As a matter of fact, you actually hear it on the floor, with many Members coming down here saying

that this House has not passed a single jobs creation bill in so many days, weeks, months, and years, or what have you.

Well, let it be known today that we worked here in a bipartisan manner, first in subcommittee, the full committee, and now here in the House. We have four pieces of legislation. I know that some of the legislation may have mind-numbing terminology and you may scratch your head when you are talking about the liquidity coverage ratios, the credited investors, LCRs, and all those sort of things. You might say: Well, what does that have to do with the job creation? What does that have to do with infrastructure creation? What does that have to do with getting a new roof on my local school or a bridge built in my town? What does that have to do with helping my neighbor actually get a job when he has been out of work for a period of time? What does that have to do with somebody in my family who is in a job right now, but no opportunity for advancement and no pay raise for a long period of time? These bills on the floor today have everything to do with all those issues.

As we pass these job creation bills in a bipartisan manner, let the word go out that we are doing exactly what the American public asked Congress to do: to work together, get it done, get the infrastructure in this country growing again, get the economy going again, and create jobs again.

That is why it is important to say thank you again to both sides of the aisle, and I encourage a ''yes'' vote on all four of these bills today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2209.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

INTERNATIONAL MEGAN'S LAW TO PREVENT DEMAND FOR CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 515) to protect children from exploitation, especially sex trafficking in tourism, by providing advance notice of intended travel by registered child-sex offenders outside the United States to the government of the country of destination, requesting foreign governments to notify the United States when a known child-sex offender is seeking to enter the United States, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendments is as follows:

Senate amendments:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''International Megan's Law to Prevent Child Exploitation and Other Sexual Crimes Through Advanced Notification of Traveling Sex Offenders''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Megan Nicole Kanka, who was 7 years old, was abducted, sexually assaulted, and murdered in 1994, in the State of New Jersey by a violent predator living across the street from her home. Unbeknownst to Megan Kanka and her family, he had been convicted previously of a sex offense against a child.

(2) In 1996, Congress adopted Megan's Law (Public Law 104–145) as a means to encourage States to protect children by identifying the whereabouts of sex offenders and providing the means to monitor their activities.

(3) In 2006, Congress passed the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–248) to protect children and the public at large by establishing a comprehensive national system for the registration and notification to the public and law enforcement officers of convicted sex offenders.

(4) Law enforcement reports indicate that known child-sex offenders are traveling internationally.

(5) The commercial sexual exploitation of minors in child sex trafficking and pornography is a global phenomenon. The International Labour Organization has estimated that 1,8000,000 children worldwide are victims of child sex trafficking and pornography each year.

(6) Child sex tourism, where an individual travels to a foreign country and engages in sexual activity with a child in that country, is a form of child exploitation and, where commercial, child sex trafficking.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CENTER.—The term ''Center'' means the Angel Watch Center established pursuant to section 4(a).

(2) CONVICTED.—The term ''convicted'' has the meaning given the term in section 111 of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16911).

(3) COVERED SEX OFFENDER.—Except as otherwise provided, the term ''covered sex offender'' means an individual who is a sex offender by reason of having been convicted of a sex offense against a minor.

(4) DESTINATION COUNTRY.—The term ''destination country'' means a destination or transit country.

(5) INTERPOL.—The term ''INTERPOL'' means the International Criminal Police Organization.

(6) JURISDICTION.—The term ''jurisdiction'' means—

(A) a State;
(B) the District of Columbia;
(C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;
(D) Guam;
(E) American Samoa;
(F) the Northern Mariana Islands;
(G) the United States Virgin Islands; and
(H) to the extent provided in, and subject to the requirements of, section 127 of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16927), a Federally recognized Indian tribe.

(7) MINOR.—The term ''minor'' means an individual who has not attained the age of 18 years.

(8) NATIONAL SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY.—The term ''National Sex Offender Registry'' means the National Sex Offender Registry established by section 119 of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16919).

(9) SEX OFFENDER UNDER SORNA.—The term ''sex offender under SORNA'' has the meaning given the term ''sex offender'' in section 111 of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16911).

(10) SEX OFFENSE AGAINST A MINOR.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''sex offense against a minor'' means a specified offense against a minor, as defined in section 111 of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16911).

(B) OTHER OFFENSES.—The term ''sex offense against a minor'' includes a sex offense described in section 111(5)(A) of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16911(5)(A)) that is a specified offense against a minor, as defined in paragraph (7) of such section, or an attempt or conspiracy to commit such an offense.

(C) FOREIGN CONVICTIONS; OFFENSES INVOLVING CONSENSUAL SEXUAL CONDUCT.—The limitations contained in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of section 111(5) of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16911(5)) shall apply with respect to a sex offense against a minor for purposes of this Act to the same extent and in the same manner as such limitations apply with respect to a sex offense for purposes of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006.

SEC. 4. ANGEL WATCH CENTER.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall establish within the Child Exploitation Investigations Unit of U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement a Center, to be known as the ''Angel Watch Center'', to carry out the activities specified in subsection (e).

(b) INCOMING NOTIFICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Center may receive incoming notifications concerning individuals seeking to enter the United States who have committed offenses of a sexual nature.

(2) NOTIFICATION.—Upon receiving an incoming notification under paragraph (1), the Center shall—

(A) immediately share all information received relating to the individual with the Department of Justice; and

(B) share all relevant information relating to the individual with other Federal, State, and local agencies and entities, as appropriate.

(3) COLLABORATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall collaborate with the Attorney General to establish a process for the receipt, dissemination, and categorization of information relating to individuals and specific offenses provided herein.

(c) LEADERSHIP.—The Center shall be headed by the Assistant Secretary of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, in collaboration with the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection and in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of State.

(d) MEMBERS.—The Center shall consist of the following:

(1) The Assistant Secretary of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

(2) The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

(3) Individuals who are designated as analysts in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement or U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

(4) Individuals who are designated as program managers in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement or U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

(e) ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section, the Center shall, using all relevant databases, systems and sources of information, not later than 48 hours before scheduled departure, or as soon as practicable before scheduled departure—

(A) determine if individuals traveling abroad are listed on the National Sex Offender Registry;

(B) review the United States Marshals Service's National Sex Offender Targeting Center case management system or other system that provides access to a list of individuals who have provided advanced notice of international travel to identify any individual who meets the criteria described in subparagraph (A) and is not in a system reviewed pursuant to this subparagraph; and

(C) provide a list of individuals identified under subparagraph (B) to the United States Marshals Service's National Sex Offender Targeting Center to determine compliance with title I of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16901 et seq.).

(2) PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO CENTER.—Twenty-four hours before the intended travel, or thereafter, not later than 72 hours after the intended travel, the United States Marshals Service's National Sex Offender Targeting Center shall provide, to the Angel Watch Center, information pertaining to any sex offender described in subparagraph (C) of paragraph (1).

(3) ADVANCE NOTICE TO DESTINATION COUNTRY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Center may transmit relevant information to the destination country about a sex offender if—

(i) the individual is identified by a review conducted under paragraph (1)(B) as having provided advanced notice of international travel; or

(ii) after completing the activities described in paragraph (1), the Center receives information pertaining to a sex offender under paragraph (2).

(B) EXCEPTIONS.—The Center may immediately transmit relevant information on a sex offender to the destination country if—

(i) the Center becomes aware that a sex offender is traveling outside of the United States within 24 hours of intended travel, and simultaneously completes the activities described in paragraph (1); or

(ii) the Center has not received a transmission pursuant to paragraph (2), provided it is not more than 24 hours before the intended travel.

(C) CORRECTIONS.—Upon receiving information that a notification sent by the Center regarding an individual was inaccurate, the Center shall immediately—

(i) send a notification of correction to the destination country notified;

(ii) correct all data collected pursuant to paragraph (6); and

(iii) if applicable, notify the Secretary of State for purposes of the passport review and marking processes described in section 240 of Public Law 110–457.

(D) FORM.—The notification under this paragraph may be transmitted through such means as are determined appropriate by the Center, including through U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement attaches.

(4) MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Attorney General to facilitate the activities of the Angel Watch Center in collaboration with the United States Marshals Service's National Sex Offender Targeting Center, including the exchange of information, the sharing of personnel, access to information and databases in accordance with paragraph (1)(B), and the establishment of a process to share notifications from the international community in accordance with subsection (b)(1).

(5) PASSPORT APPLICATION REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Center shall provide a written determination to the Department of State regarding the status of an individual as a covered sex offender (as defined in section 240 of Public Law 110–457) when appropriate.

(B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subparagraph (A) shall take effect upon certification by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Attorney General that the process developed and reported to the appropriate congressional committees under section 9 has been successfully implemented.

(6) COLLECTION OF DATA.—The Center shall collect all relevant data, including—

(A) a record of each notification sent under paragraph (3);

(B) the response of the destination country to notifications under paragraph (3), where available;

(C) any decision not to transmit a notification abroad, to the extent practicable;

(D) the number of transmissions made under subparagraphs (A),(B), and (C) of paragraph (3) and the countries to which they are transmitted, respectively;

(E) whether the information was transmitted to the destination country before scheduled commencement of sex offender travel; and

(F) any other information deemed necessary and appropriate by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(7) COMPLAINT REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Center shall—

(i) establish a mechanism to receive complaints from individuals affected by erroneous notifications under this section;

(ii) ensure that any complaint is promptly reviewed; and

(iii) in the case of a complaint that involves a notification sent by another Federal Government entity, notify the individual of the contact information for the appropriate entity and forward the complaint to the appropriate entity for prompt review and response pursuant to this section.

(B) RESPONSE TO COMPLAINTS.—The Center shall, as applicable—

(i) provide the individual with notification in writing that the individual was erroneously subjected to international notification;

(ii) take action to ensure that a notification or information regarding the individual is not erroneously transmitted to a destination country in the future; and

(iii) submit an additional written notification to the individual explaining why a notification or information regarding the individual was erroneously transmitted to the destination country and describing the actions that the Center has taken or is taking under clause (ii).

(C) PUBLIC AWARENESS.—The Center shall make publicly available information on how an individual may submit a complaint under this section.

(D) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit an annual report to the appropriate congressional committees (as defined in section 9) that includes—

(i) the number of instances in which a notification or information was erroneously transmitted to the destination country of an individual under paragraph (3); and

(ii) the actions taken to prevent similar errors from occurring in the future.

(8) ANNUAL REVIEW PROCESS.—The Center shall establish, in coordination with the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, and INTERPOL, an annual review process to ensure that there is appropriate coordination and collaboration, including consistent procedures governing the activities authorized under this Act, in carrying out this Act.

(9) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—The Center shall make available to the United States Marshals Service's National Sex Offender Targeting Center information on travel by sex offenders in a timely manner.

(f) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''sex offender'' means—

(1) a covered sex offender; or

(2) an individual required to register under the sex offender registration program of any jurisdiction or included in the National Sex Offender Registry, on the basis of an offense against a minor.

SEC. 5. NOTIFICATION BY THE UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The United States Marshals Service's National Sex Offender Targeting Center may—

(1) transmit notification of international travel of a sex offender to the destination country of the sex offender, including to the visa-issuing agent or agents in the United States of the country;

(2) share information relating to traveling sex offenders with other Federal, State, local, and foreign agencies and entities, as appropriate;

(3) receive incoming notifications concerning individuals seeking to enter the United States who have committed offenses of a sexual nature and shall share the information received immediately with the Department of Homeland Security; and

(4) perform such other functions at the Attorney General or the Director of the United States Marshals Service may direct.

(b) CONSISTENT NOTIFICATION.—In making notifications under subsection (a)(1), the United States Marshals Service's National Sex Offender Targeting Center shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, ensure that the destination country is consistently notified in advance about sex offenders under SORNA identified through their inclusion in sex offender registries of jurisdictions or the National Sex Offender Registry.

(c) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—For purposes of carrying out this Act, the United States Marshals Service's National Sex Offender Targeting Center shall—

(1) make the case management system or other system that provides access to a list of individuals who have provided advanced notice of international travel available to the Angel Watch Center;

(2) provide the Angel Watch Center a determination of compliance with title I of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16901 et seq.) for the list of individuals transmitted under section 4(e)(1)(C);

(3) make available to the Angel Watch Center information on travel by sex offenders in a timely manner; and

(4) consult with the Department of State regarding operation of the international notification program authorized under this Act.

(d) CORRECTIONS.—Upon receiving information that a notification sent by the United States Marshals Service's National Sex Offender Targeting Center regarding an individual was inaccurate, the United States Marshals Service's National Sex Offender Targeting Center shall immediately—

(1) send a notification of correction to the destination country notified;

(2) correct all data collected in accordance with subsection (f); and

(3) if applicable, send a notification of correction to the Angel Watch Center.

(e) FORM.—The notification under this section may be transmitted through such means as are determined appropriate by the United States Marshals Service's National Sex Offender Targeting Center, including through the INTERPOL notification system and through Federal Bureau of Investigation Legal attaches.

(f) COLLECTION OF DATA.—The Attorney General shall collect all relevant data, including—

(1) a record of each notification sent under subsection (a);

(2) the response of the destination country to notifications under paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a), where available;

(3) any decision not to transmit a notification abroad, to the extent practicable;

(4) the number of transmissions made under paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a) and the countries to which they are transmitted;

(5) whether the information was transmitted to the destination country before scheduled commencement of sex offender travel; and

(6) any other information deemed necessary and appropriate by the Attorney General.

(g) COMPLAINT REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The United States Marshals Service's National Sex Offender Targeting Center shall—

(A) establish a mechanism to receive complaints from individuals affected by erroneous notifications under this section;

(B) ensure that any complaint is promptly reviewed; and

(C) in the case of a complaint that involves a notification sent by another Federal Government entity, notify the individual of the contact information for the appropriate entity and forward the complaint to the appropriate entity for prompt review and response pursuant to this section.

(2) RESPONSE TO COMPLAINTS.—The United States Marshals Service's National Sex Offender Targeting Center shall, as applicable—

(A) provide the individual with notification in writing that the individual was erroneously subjected to international notification;

(B) take action to ensure that a notification or information regarding the individual is not erroneously transmitted to a destination country in the future; and

(C) submit an additional written notification to the individual explaining why a notification or information regarding the individual was erroneously transmitted to the destination country and describing the actions that the United States Marshals Service's National Sex Offender Targeting Center has taken or is taking under subparagraph (B).

(3) PUBLIC AWARENESS.—The United States Marshals Service's National Sex Offender Targeting Center shall make publicly available information on how an individual may submit a complaint under this section.

(4) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—The Attorney General shall submit an annual report to the appropriate congressional committees (as defined in section 9) that includes—

(A) the number of instances in which a notification or information was erroneously transmitted to the destination country of an individual under subsection (a); and

(B) the actions taken to prevent similar errors from occurring in the future.

(h) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''sex offender'' means—

(1) a sex offender under SORNA; or

(2) a person required to register under the sex offender registration program of any jurisdiction or included in the National Sex Offender Registry.

SEC. 6. INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL.

(a) REQUIREMENT THAT SEX OFFENDERS PROVIDE INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL RELATED INFORMATION TO SEX OFFENDER REGISTRIES.—Section 114 of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16914) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (7) as paragraph (8); and;

(B) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

''(7) Information relating to intended travel of the sex offender outside the United States, including any anticipated dates and places of departure, arrival, or return, carrier and flight numbers for air travel, destination country and address or other contact information therein, means and purpose of travel, and any other itinerary or other travel-related information required by the Attorney General.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(c) TIME AND MANNER.—A sex offender shall provide and update information required under subsection (a), including information relating to intended travel outside the United States required under paragraph (7) of that subsection, in conformity with any time and manner requirements prescribed by the Attorney General.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 2250 OF TITLE 18, UNITED STATES CODE.—Section 2250 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively;

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

''(b) INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL REPORTING VIOLATIONS.—Whoever—

''(1) is required to register under the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (42 U.S.C. 16901 et seq.);

''(2) knowingly fails to provide information required by the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act relating to intended travel in foreign commerce; and

''(3) engages or attempts to engage in the intended travel in foreign commerce;

shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.''; and

(3) in subsections (c) and (d), as redesignated, by striking ''subsection (a)'' each place it appears and inserting ''subsection (a) or (b)''.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—In carrying out this Act, and the amendments made by this Act, the Attorney General may use the resources and capacities of any appropriate agencies of the Department of Justice, including the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking, the United States Marshals Service, INTERPOL Washington-U.S. National Central Bureau, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Criminal Division, and the United States Attorneys' Offices.

SEC. 7. RECIPROCAL NOTIFICATIONS.

It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security, should seek reciprocal international agreements or arrangements to further the purposes of this Act and the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (42 U.S.C. 16901 et seq.). Such agreements or arrangements may establish mechanisms and undertakings to receive and transmit notices concerning international travel by sex offenders, through the Angel Watch Center, the INTERPOL notification system, and such other means as may be appropriate, including notification by the United States to other countries relating to the travel of sex offenders from the United States, reciprocal notification by other countries to the United States relating to the travel of sex offenders to the United States, and mechanisms to correct and, as applicable, remove from any other records, any inaccurate information transmitted through such notifications.

SEC. 8. UNIQUE PASSPORT IDENTIFIERS FOR COVERED SEX OFFENDERS.

(a) AMENDMENT TO PUBLIC LAW 110–457.—Title II of Public Law 110–457 is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 240. UNIQUE PASSPORT IDENTIFIERS FOR COVERED SEX OFFENDERS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Immediately after receiving a written determination from the Angel Watch Center that an individual is a covered sex offender, through the process developed for that purpose under section 9 of the International Megan's Law to Prevent Child Exploitation and Other Sexual Crimes Through Advanced Notification of Traveling Sex Offenders, the Secretary of State shall take appropriate action under subsection (b).

''(b) AUTHORITY TO USE UNIQUE PASSPORT IDENTIFIERS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under paragraph (2), the Secretary of State shall not issue a passport to a covered sex offender unless the passport contains a unique identifier, and may revoke a passport previously issued without such an identifier of a covered sex offender.

''(2) AUTHORITY TO REISSUE.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Secretary of State may reissue a passport that does not include a unique identifier if an individual described in subsection (a) reapplies for a passport and the Angel Watch Center provides a written determination, through the process developed for that purpose under section 9 of the International Megan's Law to Prevent Child Exploitation and Other Sexual Crimes Through Advanced Notification of Traveling Sex Offenders, to the Secretary of State that the individual is no longer required to register as a covered sex offender.

''(c) DEFINED TERMS.—In this section—

''(1) the term 'covered sex offender' means an individual who—

''(A) is a sex offender, as defined in section 4(f) of the International Megan's Law to Prevent Child Exploitation and Other Sexual Crimes Through Advanced Notification of Traveling Sex Offenders; and

''(B) is currently required to register under the sex offender registration program of any jurisdiction;

''(2) the term 'unique identifier' means any visual designation affixed to a conspicuous location on the passport indicating that the individual is a covered sex offender; and

''(3) the term 'passport' means a passport book or passport card.

''(d) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Attorney General, and their agencies, officers, employees, and agents, shall not be liable to any person for any action taken under this section.

''(e) DISCLOSURE.—In furtherance of this section, the Secretary of State may require a passport applicant to disclose that they are a registered sex offender.

''(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect upon certification by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Attorney General, that the process developed and reported to the appropriate congressional committees under section 9 of the International Megan's Law to Prevent Child Exploitation and Other Sexual Crimes Through Advanced Notification of Traveling Sex Offenders has been successfully implemented.''.

SEC. 9. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of State, and the Attorney General shall develop a process by which to implement section 4(e)(5) and the provisions of section 240 of Public Law 110–457, as added by section 8 of this Act.

(b) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of State, and the Attorney General shall jointly submit a report to, and shall consult with, the appropriate congressional committees on the process developed under subsection (a), which shall include a description of the proposed process and a timeline and plan for implementation of that process, and shall identify the resources required to effectively implement that process.

(c) ''APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES'' DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(3) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(4) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

(5) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(6) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives;

(7) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(8) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 10. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security, may provide technical assistance to foreign authorities in order to enable such authorities to participate more effectively in the notification program system established under this Act.

SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act $6,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 and 2018.

SEC. 12. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit international information sharing or law enforcement cooperation relating to any person pursuant to any authority of the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, or any other department or agency.

Amend the title so as to read: ''An Act to protect children and others from sexual abuse and exploitation, including sex trafficking and sex tourism, by providing advance notice of intended travel by registered sex offenders outside the United States to the government of the country of destination, requesting foreign governments to notify the United States when a known sex offender is seeking to enter the United States, and for other purposes.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, child predators thrive on secrecy, a secrecy that allows them to commit heinous crimes against the weakest and most vulnerable.

Today the House has under consideration H.R. 515, the International Megan's Law to Prevent Child Exploitation and Other Sexual Crimes Through Advanced Notification of Traveling Sex Offenders, a law that will significantly thwart child sexual exploitation in the United States and abroad through a comprehensive and efficient system that warns law enforcement of traveling sex offenders.

Mr. Speaker, I first introduced International Megan's Law back in 2008. It has passed the House three times—2010, 2014, 2015—and, thankfully, passed the United States Senate in December.

International Megan's Law honors the memory of Megan Kanka, a precious little girl from my hometown of Hamilton who suffered and died at the hands of a sexual predator. Megan was just 7 years old when she was kidnapped, raped, and brutally murdered in 1994. Her assailant lived across the street. Unbeknownst to her family and other residents in the neighborhood, he was a convicted repeat sex offender.

Due to the extraordinary work by Megan's courageous parents, Maureen and Richard Kanka, the New Jersey State Legislature passed and the Governor signed the original Megan's Law in 1994 and expanded it in 2001. It requires registration and public notification of convicted sex offenders living in the community.

Today all 50 States and all U.S. territories have a Megan's Law. Because of this law, parents, guardians, universities, school officials, sports coaches, law enforcement, and the public at large are now empowered with the critical information they need to mitigate harm to children.

We know from law enforcement and media documentation that Americans on the U.S. sex offender registries are caught sexually abusing children in Asia, Central and South America, Europe, and, frankly, everywhere.

A deeply disturbing 2010 report by the GAO found that at least 4,500 U.S. passports were issued to registered sex offenders in fiscal year 2008 alone. Typically, Mr. Speaker, a passport is valid for 10 years, meaning some or many of the tens of thousands of registered sex offenders possessing passports may be on the prowl internationally looking to exploit and abuse.

Ernie Allen, who served for 30 years as the president and CEO of the Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, recently said: ''It is clear that there is a substantial category of offenders who do not offend as a lapse of judgment; they do it as a lifestyle. And these are the offenders who are most likely to travel to seek victims in places where the offender is most likely to be anonymous and most likely to avoid identification and apprehension.''

Studies suggest and demonstrate that even when caught, prosecuted, and jailed, for a number of predators, the propensity to recommit these crimes at a later date remains. For example, a 2008 study by Oliver, Wong, and Nicholaichuk showed that untreated sex offenders were reconvicted for sexual crimes at a rate of 17.7 percent after 3 years, 24.5 percent after 5 years, and 32 percent after 10 years. Keep in mind, Mr. Speaker, that these are just the rates for those who were caught again and then convicted.

Pedophiles and other sexual predators often harm more than one victim. There are different studies that showed large numbers of child victims and large numbers of acts committed against those children. For every victim who reports, there are likely many others who could not, would not, and cannot come forward.

Mr. Speaker, some of those exploited children are prostituted by human traffickers to pedophiles. The International Labour Organization has estimated that 1.8 million children are victims of commercial sexual exploitation around the world each year.

It is imperative that we take the lessons learned on how to protect our children from known child sex predators within our borders and expand those protections globally to prevent convicted U.S. sex offenders from harming children abroad. It is imperative that we teach other countries how to establish their own Megan's Law and push other countries to warn us in the United States when their sex offenders are traveling here.

Specifically, H.R. 515 will authorize and empower the Angel Watch Center, operating under the auspices of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, to check flight manifests against sex offender registries and quickly warn destination countries when sex offenders are headed their way.

The Angel Watch Center is authorized to send actual information about child sex offender travel to destination countries in a timely fashion for those countries to assess the potential damage and dangers to their kids and to respond appropriately, whether it is to deny entry or visa, monitor travel, or limit travel.

To prevent offenders from thwarting International Megan's Law notification procedures by country hopping to an alternative destination not previously disclosed, H.R. 515 includes provisions for the State Department to develop a passport identifier or, as we put it in the bill, ''any visual designation affixed to a conspicuous location on the passport indicating that the individual is a covered sex offender.'' A passport, Mr. Speaker, so identified provides law enforcement and Customs an additional tool to protect children.

The passport identifier is only for those who have been found guilty of a sex crime involving a child and have been deemed dangerous enough to be listed on a public sex offender registry. When this information is no longer public knowledge in the United States—in other words, they are off the registry—the passport identifier, in like manner, will no longer be required.

It is worth noting that some States already require sex offenders to have their status listed on their driver's licenses—Alabama, Florida, Delaware, and Louisiana, to name a few. Ironically, it has been reported that some registered sex offenders have used their passports as an ID in order to keep their status secret.

□ 1630

Mr. Speaker, in order to protect potential victims, H.R. 515 also aims to establish a durable system of reciprocity among the nations of the world. International Megan's Law directs the Secretary of State to seek agreements with other countries so that the U.S. is notified in advance of incoming sex offenders.

I would like to offer my profound appreciation, Mr. Speaker, to Majority Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY for his deep and abiding commitment to combating human trafficking in all of its ugly manifestations, for scheduling the House vote 12 months ago on International Megan's Law and another dozen or so anti-human trafficking measures sponsored by Members from both sides of the aisle.

That was historic and had never been done like that before. So I thank him for that leadership and for working closely with the Senate in order to help bring this bill to fruition.

His policy adviser, Emily Murry, was remarkable, as was and is Kelly Dixon.

I would like to thank our distinguished chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, ED ROYCE, and Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL for their strong support for this bill and for the assistance of Jessica Kelch, Doug Anderson, and Janice Kaguyutan.

Janice will remember. She traveled with one of my staffers years ago investigating this terrible issue, which is a global scourge.

Senator BOB CORKER, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee on the Senate side, truly made this bill a priority and carried it over the finish line in the Senate. Thank you, Senator. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for that.

His professional staff, Caleb McCarry and Counsel Sarah Ramig, showed remarkable dedication and persistence through multiple interagency negotiations.

His chief of staff, Todd Womack, and legislative director, Rob Strayer, skillfully guided the bill through the process on the Senate side, and I can't thank them enough.

I also want to thank my good friend BEN CARDIN—Ben and I serve and have served for decades on the Helsinki Commission—for his support and for his efforts.

I am grateful to Senator RICHARD SHELBY and Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI for their assistance and driving better Angel Watch Center collaboration with the U.S. Marshals Service's Sex Offender Targeting Center.

USMS will be required to vet names sent out by the Angel Watch Center and share previously vetted names with the Center in order to maximize expertise, avoid duplication of efforts, and ensure accuracy of international notifications.

I would note that Senator SHELBY also championed the passport provisions that will ensure sex offenders with crimes against children cannot end-run the system.

I would like to thank his professional staffer, Shannon Hines, who was extraordinarily smart and creative during this process.

Thanks to professional staffer Jen Deci as well as Senator MIKULSKI's staffer, Jennifer Eskra, for their tireless work as well.

Senator JOHN CORNYN, majority leader, did not rest on his success earlier this year in navigating the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act through the Senate, but persisted until International Megan's Law was complete over on the Senate side.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank my chief of staff, Mary Noonan, who has been tenacious in guiding this bill past obstacle after obstacle, and Allison Hollabaugh, who worked energetically, effectively, and expertly with the agencies and other interested parties to achieve the final bill.

I also would like to thank my former top Foreign Affairs Committee staff member, Sheri Rickert, who spent countless hours over several years negotiating with disparate parties trying to achieve passage of the bill. Those efforts, Sheri, were not in vain.

I would like to thank the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children for their strong endorsement of the bill, the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, ECPAT-USA, and the Family Research Council, for their input, counsel, and strong support.

I again first introduced this bill in 2008, alongside Megan Kanka's parents, Maureen and Richard Kanka. Maureen and Richard, Mr. Speaker, are heroic people. They have fought for decades to spare children and their families from horrific crimes that can and must be prevented.

While they still carry deep emotional and psychological scars, Maureen and Richard's selflessness, love of others, and vision have protected countless children from harm.

Enactment of International Megan's Law will expand meaningful child protection at home and around the world, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this measure.

Let me first thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for his leadership on human rights and anti-trafficking issues and for his hard work on International Megan's Law.

I also want to thank the Judiciary Committee for its bipartisan input on this bill. This legislation is the product of a lot of hard work and reflects a commitment to advancing practical and effective ways to help those victimized by sexual predators.

This is hard to believe, but around the world today there are tens of millions of victims of human trafficking, which is what we call modern-day slavery. Many of these victims are children exploited in prostitution.

In many countries, extreme poverty and gaps in law enforcement create zones of impunity where sex offenders exploit vulnerable children. Sometimes local officials have no idea this is going on. Sometimes they turn a blind eye, and sometimes officials are even complicit in this crime.

We have a responsibility to protect all victims and to crack down on this crime that destabilizes communities, fuels corruption, and undermines the rule of law.

International Megan's Law aims to prevent child sex offenders and traffickers from exploiting vulnerable children when they cross an international border.

This bill would establish an Angel Watch Center within ICE—Immigration and Customs Enforcement—and provide advance notice to foreign governments when a convicted child sex offender travels to their country.

This bill will hopefully prevent some of these horrific crimes from taking place.

But, Mr. Speaker, fighting modern slavery requires a much more comprehensive response. Beyond prevention, governments must do all they can to protect victims: robust identification efforts; policies and procedures that get victims out of harm's way; comprehensive support services that include physical and mental health care; education opportunities; legal assistance; reintegration with family and community; and, of course, aggressive investigations and prosecutions to go after those responsible for such heinous crimes.

The reality is, the sad reality, is that no single government or single law will put an end to human trafficking. But every step we take strengthens our ability to prevent these crimes, protect victims, and punish those responsible.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Senate amendment to H.R. 515.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina, (Mr. PITTENGER), a member of the Financial Services Committee who has been very active in the fight against human trafficking.

Mr. PITTENGER. Chairman SMITH, thank you so much for your leadership on behalf of these individuals.

Thank you, Chairman ROYCE, for your strong leadership as well.

Mr. Speaker, right now more than 20 million people worldwide are caught up in modern-day slavery. We call it human trafficking.

This isn't just a problem over there. In the city I represent—Charlotte—Maria was trapped when she answered an ad for an aspiring actress. Rosa was snatched from a local gas station while waiting for a ride.

My good friend, Antonia Childs, dreamed of owning a bakery before falling victim to human trafficking. Thankfully, Antonia was rescued and now leads a vital Charlotte organization rescuing women, including Maria and Rosa.

As a Nation, we must take responsibility for our part in this horrific, multi-billion-dollar illicit industry. As Members of Congress, we must take an active role in ending human trafficking worldwide.

That is why, on January 22, 2015, I became an original cosponsor in support

of Chairman SMITH's H.R. 515, the International Megan's Law to Prevent Child Exploitation.

H.R. 515 ensures foreign countries are notified when an American sex offender who has previously abused children is traveling to that country. It encourages foreign countries to provide us with the same vital information when a sex offender is traveling to America.

It attacks the sickening practice of child sex tourism by requiring the United States to notify other countries when convicted pedophiles travel abroad.

It encourages President Obama to use bilateral agreements and assistance to establish reciprocal notification so that we will know when convicted child offenders are coming here.

International Megan's Law takes valuable lessons we have learned about protecting our children here in the United States and expands those protections globally so all communities can join together to take the necessary steps to protect our children.

Please join me in taking this important step to end modern slavery today.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers on our side. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), the distinguished chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 515, the International Megan's Law, focused on preventing demand for child sex trafficking.

I really want to acknowledge the hard work by the Member from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), his perseverance here as the bill's author, as he has tried on several occasions to get this through the Senate and to the President's desk. With this action today, this bill, when it passes the floor, will go to the President's desk.

I think it is very important that we understand the magnitude of this problem, as he has tried to convey to us here, and how this is going to strengthen the hand of law enforcement.

We want law enforcement to consider this a new tool. It will combat the appalling industry of child sex tourism, in which adults travel overseas to exploit children in other countries.

My chief of staff, Amy Porter, has gone on several humanitarian missions to work with very young children in Cambodia and elsewhere in South Asia as well. As she shows you the photographs of these little girls exploited and traumatized by this predatory activity, it is hard to fathom that men from around the world, including America, including our country, engage in this predatory activity.

While the countries they travel to lack the resources needed to deal with this rising number of child predators, this legislation is going to help us offset that.

One of the most discouraging things that my chief of staff, Amy, found was that, in Cambodia, it was the local police chief who himself was involved in the practice.

Now, upon her return to again check on this, she found that they had put an end to that. He was no longer in this trade, in this type of business. It had been cleaned up some with pressure from the United States, but it is still ongoing. So this will help us fight back.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I yield the gentleman 1 minute.

Mr. ROYCE. At present, multiple U.S. Government agencies are working to combat human trafficking and child sex tourism, but there has been a troubling lack of coordination and information sharing and notifications to foreign countries that a potential sexual criminal is heading their way, and those notifications are very inconsistent.

This bill clarifies the responsibility, puts it on the Justice Department and the Department of Homeland Security. It better coordinates those efforts. And, importantly, by proactively helping other countries to identify those incoming child predators, we will encourage them to alert us when foreigners convicted of sex offenses against children attempt to enter into the United States.

□ 1645

So I commend Chairman SMITH for his work on this bipartisan legislation, and I encourage all Members to support its passage. It will be on the President's desk here after our action this evening.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER).

Mrs. WAGNER. I thank the gentlemen for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 515, the International Megan's Law to Prevent Demand for Child Sex Trafficking.

I would like to thank, like so many have, Congressman CHRIS SMITH for introducing this important legislation to protect innocent children from the evils of sexual predators in the United States and worldwide.

As a mother who raised three beautiful children, I can tell you that the constant concern for their safety and protection never goes away. When they were young, I worried if they were safe at the playground down the street, if they were safe at the shopping mall or movie theater.

Named after a young girl who was kidnapped, raped, and murdered at just 7 years old by her neighbor, Megan's Law and public knowledge of predators in our communities have been critical tools in protecting our children and easing some of the many fears that parents feel every single day.

I cannot fathom the anger and anguish felt by Megan's parents and all parents whose children fall prey to such sick predators. I would do anything to protect my children and all children from sexual predators, and I feel blessed that I and my colleagues are in a position where we can make a difference.

We will be able to better identify and scrutinize sex offenders' activity, ensuring that they do not engage in the ghastly practice of sex tourism either in our own neighborhood or any neighborhood around the world.

The U.S. must take a leading role as a global defender of children from sexual abuse. Often planning their trips around locations where the most vulnerable children can be found, sex offenders should not be allowed to use the anonymity provided by foreign travel to help hide their hideous crimes.

A 2010 Government Accountability Office report showed that in a single year, at least 4,500 registered sex offenders received U.S. passports to travel internationally. This is absolutely unacceptable, Mr. Speaker.

During my time as a United States ambassador, I was exposed firsthand to the horrors of sexual abuse and human trafficking on the international level.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman from Missouri an additional 1 minute.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, as elected Members of Congress, we must stand up for the powerless, and we must provide a voice for the voiceless. Today we are doing just that.

Passing the International Megan's Law, which will provide advance notice of foreign travel by registered sex offenders, is critical. We owe it to the innocent angels like Megan to take these crimes out of the shadows and do everything we can to prevent future crime both in the United States and across the globe.

Today I will vote to pass the International Megan's Law, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in providing protection for potential victims worldwide and greater peace of mind for those who love them.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say this is a bipartisan bill. It will save children's lives. It will prevent other crimes to victims like Megan Kanka from happening not just in the United States but around the world.

I think my good friend, ANN WAGNER, said a moment ago that Megan is an angel. Her parents are guardian angels. They have taken a pain, an agony, and a trauma that is incomprehensible and have worked tirelessly to get Megan's

Law enacted throughout the United States and in some other countries. This will take it to the next level and will establish that true reciprocal reciprocity regimen, whereby we notice, they notice, everybody knows what is going on to take the secrecy out of this travel when a convicted pedophile hops on a plane with the idea of exploiting children.

This will have a very measurable impact and will protect children from this kind of agony.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, to conclude, I second the comments that were made by Mr. SMITH. I congratulate the family of Megan Kanka. Being a father myself of a 2-year-old daughter, I can't imagine losing a little girl, especially in the heinous way that they did.

I remember very much when all of that happened. Hamilton, New Jersey, is only about 40 minutes up the road from where I live in Philadelphia, and I remember the ugly incident very well. The fact that here we are, so many years later, and the family still continues to fight for other little girls and little boys is really remarkable and is a testament to them.

I also congratulate the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), who I know has worked tirelessly on this bill for a long period of time.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 515, International Megan's Law. While I support the underlying goal of ensuring that American law enforcement agencies share information on potential child sex offenders with foreign law enforcement agencies, I am opposed to how one particular provision, added in the Senate amendment before us today, would work in practice.

Other existing provisions of the bill already contain the following information-sharing requirements with and among law enforcement agencies here in the United States and abroad:

U.S. sex offenders are required to provide international travel-related information to the sex offender registries;

the Department of Homeland Security is required to create the Angel Watch Center to receive information on individuals seeking to enter the U.S. who have committed offenses of a sexual nature as well as registered sex offenders seeking to travel outside the U.S. in order to share all relevant information to federal, state, and local law enforcement officials;

the U.S. Marshal's Service is required to notify law enforcement agencies of sex offenders seeking to leave the United States who have not transmitted their travel information to sex offender registries;

the U.S. Marshal's Service is required to notify the international destination country of a sex offender's upcoming travel; and

the Secretary of State should seek reciprocal international agreements or arrangements to further these goals.

If our goal is to ensure that customs and border as well as law enforcement officials are notified so that they may track and investigate those sex offenders who may be engaging in sex tourism or pose a threat of absconding, these provisions have addressed those concerns.

As a result, I am skeptical of what more we stand to gain by the Senate amendment's provision authorizing the Secretary of State to use a ''unique passport identifier for covered sex offenders'' that is defined as ''any visual designation affixed to a conspicuous location on the passport indicating the individual is a covered sex offender.'' At best, if this vague language is meant to describe some sort of code or symbol embedded in the passport that is only discernible by law enforcement at the border indicating that the traveler is a sex offender, it is redundant given the other information-sharing mandated by the bill's other provisions. However, if this is interpreted to mean something akin to the words ''sex offender'' stamped on the identification page of the passport, this raises serious problems and will lead to unintended consequences.

First, it is simply bad policy to single out one category of offenses for this type of treatment. We do not subject those who murder, who defraud the government or our fellow citizens of millions and billions, or who commit acts of terrorism to these restrictions.

Second, by treating all sexual offenders as one monolithic group ignores reality. While some pose a continued and real risk of reoffending and may be traveling to engage in sex tourism or other illicit acts, not all pose the same risk. Indeed, the failure of this provision to allow for the individualized consideration of the facts and circumstances surrounding the traveler's criminal history, including how much time has elapsed since his last offense, underscores how this provision is overbroad. Details such as whether the traveler is a serial child rapist versus someone with a decades-old conviction from when he was 19-years-old and his girlfriend was 14, just missing the Romeo and Juliet exception by one year, are significant and would allow law enforcement to more appropriately prioritize their finite resources.

Third, a traveler does not have any recourse with the foreign destination country if he or she is refused entry solely on the basis of this ''unique passport identifier.'' While the bill has some due process provisions, those apply only domestically. There is no recourse if a traveler is erroneously denied entry from the destination country.

Fourth, if the ''unique passport identifier'' is implemented in a way that makes it obvious to not only law enforcement officials but any member of the general public viewing the passport, this could lead to unintended consequences of persecution and harm to the traveler. This is especially troubling given that no factual context about the offense is provided.

If our goal is to ensure that domestic and foreign law enforcement and customs officials are notified of potential threats, multiple existing provisions of the bill already achieve that goal without raising these problematic implementation and fairness concerns.

In summary, while I support the underlying goal of ensuring that American law enforcement agencies share information on potential child sex offenders with foreign law enforcement agencies, I have grave concerns about how the redundant and problematic provision regarding the ''unique passport identifier'', added as a Senate amendment, would work in practice. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to oppose the underlying bill.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I stand in strong support of H.R. 515 because it seeks to protect our children from predators by identifying the whereabouts of sex offenders and providing means to monitor their activities.

This legislation is important because sex trafficking of children is a displaceable act that we detest and has been an on-going concern for the United States.

In addition to protecting our children from national threats, we must also consider the potential threat from international actors, especially during times of increased tourism, like for example the Super Bowl, FIFA World Cup, World Olympics and other major events around the world where tourism is high.

This legislation by my friend Representative SMITH aims to protect our children from exploitation, specifically sex trafficking in tourism, by providing advance notice of intended travel by registered child-sex offenders outside of the United States to the government of the destination country.

This legislation is important because it requests that foreign governments notify the United States when a known child-sex offender is seeking to enter the United States.

International child exploitation is increasingly becoming a top priority for all nations and certainly is for our country.

For instance, two years ago, during the FIFA World Cup in Brazil, reports of child exploitation received global attention.

According to the Department of State, Brazil is a destination country for children subjected to sex trafficking.

For the case of Brazil, child sex tourists typically arrive from Europe and North America.

According to reports, the Rio de Janeiro civil police identified eight hotels and restaurants involved in a child sexual exploitation network in two city areas.

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, as you know, is where the World Olympics will be hosted this summer.

According to the Huffington Post, major sporting event usually lead to a spike in the demand for sexual predatory activities.

Unfortunately, these accounts of sexual predatory activity include child sex trafficking.

Here at home, during the 2014 Super Bowl week, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, along with 50 law enforcement agencies, recovered 16 teenagers during an enforcement action on child sex trafficking.

Additionally, more than 45 pimps were arrested, some of whom claimed to travel to the Super Bowl location specifically for the purpose of prostituting women and children at the sporting event.

According to Judy Kluger, Director of Sanctuary for Families, and former judge for New York City Criminal Court of New York County, New York, ''the Super Bowl could never not be breeding grounds for sexual exploitation.''

If a location experiences an exponential increase in large numbers of men travelling for entertainment, it will proportionally see an increase in those who purchase sex.

As you all know, I am committed to ensuring the protection of children, always championing the protection of children.

As co-chair of the Children's Caucus, I commend the work of all my colleagues here in Congress, dedicated to protecting children here in the U.S. and across the globe.

This is why I support this legislation and I commend Representative SMITH for championing legislative measures dedicated to the safety and protection of our children worldwide.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 515.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendments were concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TRAFFICKING PREVENTION IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS CONTRACTING ACT

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 400) to require the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to submit reports on definitions of placement and recruitment fees for purposes of enabling compliance with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 400

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This bill may be referred to as the ''Trafficking Prevention in Foreign Affairs Contracting Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) rely on contractors to provide various services in foreign countries such as construction, security, and facilities maintenance.

(2) In certain cases, such as where the employment of local labor is impractical or poses security risks, Department of State and USAID contractors sometimes employ foreign workers who are citizens neither of the United States nor of the host country and are recruited from developing countries where low wages and recruitment methods often make them vulnerable to a variety of trafficking-related abuses.

(3) A January 2011 report of the Office of the Inspector General for the Department of State, while it found no evidence of direct coercion by contractors, found that a significant majority of their foreign workers in certain Middle East countries reported paying substantial fees to recruiters that, according to the Inspector General, ''effectively resulted in debt bondage at their destinations''. Approximately one-half of the workers were charged recruitment fees equaling more than six months' salary. More than a quarter of the workers reported fees greater than one year's salary and, in some of those cases, fees that could not be paid off in two years, the standard length of a contract.

(4) A November 2014 report of the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO–15–102) found that the Department of State, USAID, and the Defense Department need to strengthen their oversight of contractors' use of foreign workers in high-risk environments in order to better protect against trafficking in persons.

(5) The GAO report recommended that those agencies should develop more precise definitions of recruitment fees, and that they should better ensure that contracting officials include prevention of trafficking in persons in contract monitoring plans and processes, especially in areas where the risk of trafficking in persons is high.

(6) Of the three agencies addressed in the GAO report, only the Department of Defense expressly concurred with GAO's definitional recommendation and committed to defining recruitment fees and to incorporating that definition in its acquisition regulations as necessary.

(7) In formal comments to GAO, the Department of State stated that it forbids the charging of any recruitment fees by contractors, and both the Department of State and USAID noted a proposed Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) rule that prohibits charging any recruitment fees to employees.

(8) However, according to GAO, neither the Department of State nor USAID specifically defines what constitutes a prohibited recruitment fee: ''Contracting officers and agency officials with monitoring responsibilities currently rely on policy and guidance regarding recruitment fees that are ambiguous. Without an explicit definition of the components of recruitment fees, prohibited fees may be renamed and passed on to foreign workers, increasing the risk of debt bondage and other conditions that contribute to trafficking.''.

(9) GAO found that, although Department of State and USAID guidance requires their respective contracting officials to monitor compliance with trafficking in persons requirements, they did not consistently have specific processes in place to do so in all of the contracts that GAO sampled.

SEC. 3. REPORTS ON DEFINITION OF PLACEMENT AND RECRUITMENT FEES AND ENHANCEMENT OF CONTRACT MONITORING TO PREVENT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS.

(a) DEPARTMENT OF STATE REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that includes the matters described in subsection (c) with respect to the Department of State.

(b) USAID REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that includes the matters described in subsection (c) with respect to USAID.

(c) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The matters described in this subsection are the following:

(1) A proposed definition of placement and recruitment fees for purposes of complying with section 106(g)(iv)(IV) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7104(g)(iv)(IV)), including a description of what fee components and amounts are prohibited or are permissible for contractors or their agents to charge workers under such section.

(2) An explanation of how the definition described in paragraph (1) will be incorporated into grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and contracting practices, so as to apply to the actions of grantees, subgrantees, contractors, subcontractors, labor recruiters, brokers, or other agents, as specified in section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7104(g)).

(3) A description of actions taken during the 180-day period preceding the date of submission of the report and planned to be taken during the one-year period following the date of submission of the report to better ensure that officials responsible for grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements and contracting practices include the prevention of trafficking in persons in plans and processes to monitor such grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements and contracting practices.

(d) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this section, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

SEC. 4. DEFINITION.

In this Act, the term ''trafficking in persons'' has the meaning given the term in section 103(9) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(9)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, my coauthor on this bill is the ranking member, ELIOT ENGEL of New York, and I wanted to thank him as well and our 27 bipartisan cosponsors for their support. This is the Trafficking Prevention in Foreign Affairs Contracting Act.

As many of our colleagues are aware, we just observed Human Trafficking Awareness Month, shining a spotlight on what is now tens of millions of victims every year of what is modern-day slavery. One of the goals here was increasing the awareness of these crimes against human dignity.

The scourge of human trafficking now is a worldwide challenge. Although the vulnerability may be greatest in the developing world, these crimes also occur here in our own communities.

I am very proud of the work being done in southern California by members of our Human Trafficking Congressional Advisory Committee where advocates, law enforcement, service providers, faith-based groups, and trafficking survivors themselves meet regularly to converse, coordinate, and plan how to combat human trafficking. Out of that working group come a lot of good ideas. I want to acknowledge Sara Catalan who helps me in leading that task force.

This bill is intended to close a gap that exists in protection. The United States cannot be too careful in ensuring that our overseas employment

practices do not inadvertently support debt bondage, because that debt bondage is one of the tools of human traffickers.

At some overseas posts, the State Department and USAID rely on contractors to provide construction, security, maintenance, and other services, and these contractors sometimes employ foreign workers recruited from far away, far-away developing countries where they are vulnerable to abuses. In particular, the middlemen those contractors rely on often charge recruitment fees to prospective employees—in other words, payments for the right to work.

Current law prohibits U.S. contractors from charging foreign workers unreasonable recruitment fees, and the State Department claims to prohibit any recruitment fees at all. However, neither State nor USAID have defined what constitutes a ''recruitment fee,'' and this ambiguity allows for a loophole that has been exploited. Recruiters simply rename these fees and continue charging them.

This is a serious problem. We had a report by the State Department Inspector General in 2011. He found that a majority of the Department's foreign contract workers in certain Middle East countries were paying substantial fees to recruiters—and this is what caught our attention—sometimes more than a year's salary resulting in, in the words of our Inspector General—in his words—''effective debt bondage.''

A worker from the Philippines performing janitorial services for our Embassy in Saudi Arabia should not be at risk of shakedowns from unscrupulous or violent operators.

To ensure that our overseas contracting does not feed such problems, this bill requires State and USAID to define what prohibited ''recruitment fees'' are and to report to Congress on their plans to improve contract monitoring, to protect against human trafficking. A prohibition is only forceful if people understand what is prohibited. Clarifying these matters will give our contractors the guidance they need to ensure that our laws and policies are followed by those they use to recruit foreign workers.

I again want to thank Mr. ENGEL and all of our cosponsors for their support of this strongly bipartisan bill which deserves our unanimous support.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman ROYCE and also Ranking Member ENGEL for their leadership and for their hard work on this bill.

It seems that every day we see another report about the way modern slavery touches our lives. Fish caught by an enslaved sailor in Southeast Asia ends up in our grocery stores. Rare metals that are needed to power our smartphones are mined through forced labor in Central Africa. Oranges and tomatoes grown right here in the United States are picked by migrants who end up trapped and isolated.

Human trafficking is a crime that affects every nation on Earth. It undermines stability, fuels criminal networks, and robs tens of millions of people of their basic freedom. It touches all of our lives.

United States Government has long been a leader in the fight against trafficking. Republican and Democratic administrations alike have focused hard on the best way to prevent modern slavery, protect its victims, and prosecute those responsible. The State Department's Annual Trafficking in Persons Report is the global gold standard for assessing how well governments are doing to combat this problem.

As we learn more and more about this crime, how it has worked its way into the global supply chain and labor market, we find new ways of disrupting trafficking networks. Part of American leadership on this issue must be to make sure, first and foremost, that we are not making this problem worse.

Our foreign affairs agencies employ thousands of foreign contract workers overseas. These men and women work in construction, food service, and security projects abroad.

In 2011, inspectors interviewing some of these workers found that 77 percent of them had paid recruiting fees to the company arranging the work. What that means is before workers are able to get these jobs, they need to pay a recruiter a hefty sum. Sometimes these fees are 6 months' or even a year's wages. These fees can include the high costs of housing or transportation to a worksite in a foreign country. So often, a worker arrives at a new job saddled with debt and is forced to work until he or she can pay the so-called recruiter back.

This sort of treatment is unacceptable under any circumstances. The fact that this is happening to individuals working for the United States Government is absolutely intolerable.

□ 1700

We cannot be the world's leader in the fight against modern slavery if taxpayer dollars are flowing into the hands of traffickers.

The Obama administration saw this problem and took steps to deal with it. An executive order forbids any U.S. Government contractors from charging unreasonable recruitment fees. But so far the State Department and USAID have been unable to enforce this requirement. The reason why—neither agency has defined recruitment fees, so their guidelines for fair treatment of workers by contractors are unenforceable.

Mr. Speaker, this is simply not acceptable. This bill requires that the State Department and USAID adopt a legally binding definition of recruitment fees. In addition, the agencies must improve how they monitor contractors to detect and prevent human trafficking.

This legislation represents a commonsense step to resolve this problem and to make sure we have a clean House as we lead global antitrafficking efforts. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, and he is the author of the original Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend and colleague, the distinguished chairman, ED ROYCE, for his persistence and creativity in finding new ways to hold the administration accountable for preventing human trafficking, especially in government contracting, as is required by the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 and the National Defense Authorization Act of 2013.

It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that U.S. Government procurement should be the quintessential example of how to buy goods and services from reputable vendors. The TVPA ensures that contracts are lost if there is complicity in trafficking and that responsible parties are prosecuted if they, in like manner, are complicit in human trafficking.

H.R. 400 targets a key piece of the law for practical implementation and brings our government one step closer to ensuring that U.S. tax dollars are not going to companies that look askance at human trafficking by their contractors and subcontractors.

Again, this is a very important bill. I want to thank the distinguished chairman for his leadership on this.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, I would simply congratulate the gentleman who does a wonderful job chairing our Foreign Affairs Committee. As I said on a radio show in Philadelphia last week, I really wish those who say that there is no bipartisanship in Washington, D.C., could see the way the ranking member, Mr. ENGEL, and our chairman, Mr. ROYCE, conduct our foreign affairs business. I think they would have a different view.

I am proud to support this piece of legislation, and I urge all my colleagues to do so.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank Mr. BRENDAN BOYLE of Pennsylvania for his work on this.

On the heels of Human Trafficking Awareness Month, I think it is important that we as an institution take this

opportunity to ensure that our own overseas contracting does not indirectly support debt bondage, and that is what this legislation ensures. Our practices need to reflect our Nation's fundamental commitments to freedom and human dignity, and, most importantly as well, we need to set an example for the rest of the world. I think by passing this legislation we will do so.

I again want to thank my coauthor, Mr. ENGEL, and all of our bipartisan cosponsors for their support of this bill. It really deserves our unanimous support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 400, the Trafficking Prevention In Foreign Affairs Contracting Act.

I support this legislation because it enforces the implementation of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

H.R. 400 requires the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to submit reports on definitions of placement and recruitment fees for purposes of enabling compliance with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

Indeed, the office of the Inspector General reported that a significant majority of the Department of State's foreign workers in certain Middle Eastern countries paid substantial fees to recruiters.

According to the Inspector General, ''approximately one-half of the workers were charged recruitment fees equaling more than six months' salary.''

Moreover, ''more than a quarter of the workers reported fees greater than one year's salary and . . . fees that could not be paid off in two years.''

The United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that USAID, the Department of State (DOS), and the Defense Department (DOD) should enhance and strengthen their oversight of contractors in order to better protect against trafficking in persons.

The agencies should develop more precise definitions of recruitment fees, and have stronger implementation strategies towards contracting officials in areas where the risk of trafficking in persons is high.

Indeed, out of the three agencies previously addressed, only the DOD committed to definitional recruitment fees and concurred with the United States GAO's definitional recommendation.

A proposed Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) rule that prohibits charging any recruitment fees to employees was noted by both the Department of State and USAID.

However, both the Department of State and USAID lacked an explicit definition for what constitutes a prohibited recruitment fee.

Without an explicit definition of the components of recruitment fees, the risk of debt bondages increase, prohibited fees are more likely to be renamed and passed, and other conditions that contribute to trafficking are more likely to occur.

I support this legislation because no later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, both the Secretary of State and the Administrator of USAID shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that includes a proposed definition of placement and recruitment fees for purposes of complying with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

Both entities will also include a description of what fee components and amounts are prohibited or are permissible for contractors or their agents to charge workers.

An explanation of how the definition provided will be incorporated into grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and contracting practices will be required.

Both the 180-day period preceding the date of submission and the one year following the date of submission require a report of the description of actions taken.

Indeed, acknowledging the actions executed during the time periods provided ensure that officials responsible for grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements and contracting practices include the prevention of trafficking in persons in plans and processes.

These include agreements and contracting practices that relate to areas of the world in which the risk of trafficking in persons is high.

In a 2011 CNN report, we learned about a federal agency filing a large human trafficking lawsuit.

The article discussed Thai workers who made their way to the nonprofit agency.

Some were approached by a labor contractor who offered what is said to be a lucrative job on a farm in the United States, but the would be workers unfortunately found themselves owing thousands of dollars in recruiting fees instead.

I support this legislation because it facilitates, establishes and monitors a strong system for submitting reports pertaining to explicit definitions of placement and recruitment fees, so foreign workers recruited from developing countries are not vulnerable to a variety of trafficking-related abuses.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 400, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ELECTRIFY AFRICA ACT OF 2015

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2152) to establish a comprehensive United States Government policy to encourage the efforts of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to develop an appropriate mix of power solutions, including renewable energy, for more broadly distributed electricity access in order to support poverty reduction, promote development outcomes, and drive economic growth, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2152

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Electrify Africa Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to encourage the efforts of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to improve access to affordable and reliable electricity in Africa in order to unlock the potential for inclusive economic growth, job creation, food security, improved health, education, and environmental outcomes, and poverty reduction.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to partner, consult, and coordinate with the governments of sub-Saharan African countries, international financial institutions, and African regional economic communities, cooperatives, and the private sector, in a concerted effort to—

(1) promote first-time access to power and power services for at least 50,000,000 people in sub-Saharan Africa by 2020 in both urban and rural areas;

(2) encourage the installation of at least 20,000 additional megawatts of electrical power in sub-Saharan Africa by 2020 using a broad mix of energy options to help reduce poverty, promote sustainable development, and drive inclusive economic growth;

(3) promote non-discriminatory reliable, affordable, and sustainable power in urban areas (including small urban areas) to promote economic growth and job creation;

(4) promote policies to facilitate public-private partnerships to provide non-discriminatory reliable, sustainable, and affordable electrical service to rural and underserved populations;

(5) encourage the necessary in-country reforms, including facilitating public-private partnerships specifically to support electricity access projects to make such expansion of power access possible;

(6) promote reforms of power production, delivery, and pricing, as well as regulatory reforms and transparency, to support long-term, market-based power generation and distribution;

(7) promote policies to displace kerosene lighting with other technologies;

(8) promote an all-of-the-above energy development strategy for sub-Saharan Africa that includes the use of oil, natural gas, coal, hydroelectric, wind, solar, and geothermal power, and other sources of energy; and

(9) promote and increase the use of private financing and seek ways to remove barriers to private financing and assistance for projects, including through charitable organizations.

SEC. 4. DEVELOPMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE, MULTIYEAR STRATEGY.

(a) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall establish a comprehensive, integrated, multiyear strategy to encourage the efforts of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to implement national power strategies and develop an appropriate mix of power solutions to provide access to sufficient reliable, affordable, and sustainable power in order to reduce poverty and drive economic growth and job creation consistent with the policy stated in section 3.

(2) FLEXIBILITY AND RESPONSIVENESS.—The President shall ensure that the strategy required under paragraph (1) maintains sufficient flexibility for and remains responsive to concerns and interests of affected local communities and technological innovation in the power sector.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall transmit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report that

contains the strategy required under subsection (a) and includes a discussion of the following elements:

(1) The objectives of the strategy and the criteria for determining the success of the strategy.

(2) A general description of efforts in sub-Saharan Africa to—

(A) increase power production;

(B) strengthen electrical transmission and distribution infrastructure;

(C) provide for regulatory reform and transparent and accountable governance and oversight;

(D) improve the reliability of power;

(E) maintain the affordability of power;

(F) maximize the financial sustainability of the power sector; and

(G) improve non-discriminatory access to power that is done in consultation with affected communities.

(3) A description of plans to support efforts of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to increase access to power in urban and rural areas, including a description of plans designed to address commercial, industrial, and residential needs.

(4) A description of plans to support efforts to reduce waste and corruption, ensure local community consultation, and improve existing power generation through the use of a broad power mix, including fossil fuel and renewable energy, distributed generation models, energy efficiency, and other technological innovations, as appropriate.

(5) An analysis of existing mechanisms for ensuring, and recommendations to promote—

(A) commercial cost recovery;

(B) commercialization of electric service through distribution service providers, including cooperatives, to consumers;

(C) improvements in revenue cycle management, power pricing, and fees assessed for service contracts and connections;

(D) reductions in technical losses and commercial losses; and

(E) non-discriminatory access to power, including recommendations on the creation of new service provider models that mobilize community participation in the provision of power services.

(6) A description of the reforms being undertaken or planned by countries in sub-Saharan Africa to ensure the long-term economic viability of power projects and to increase access to power, including—

(A) reforms designed to allow third parties to connect power generation to the grid;

(B) policies to ensure there is a viable and independent utility regulator;

(C) strategies to ensure utilities become or remain creditworthy;

(D) regulations that permit the participation of independent power producers and private-public partnerships;

(E) policies that encourage private sector and cooperative investment in power generation;

(F) policies that ensure compensation for power provided to the electrical grid by on-site producers;

(G) policies to unbundle power services;

(H) regulations to eliminate conflicts of interest in the utility sector;

(I) efforts to develop standardized power purchase agreements and other contracts to streamline project development;

(J) efforts to negotiate and monitor compliance with power purchase agreements and other contracts entered into with the private sector; and

(K) policies that promote local community consultation with respect to the development of power generation and transmission projects.

(7) A description of plans to ensure meaningful local consultation, as appropriate, in the planning, long-term maintenance, and management of investments designed to increase access to power in sub-Saharan Africa.

(8) A description of the mechanisms to be established for—

(A) selection of partner countries for focused engagement on the power sector;

(B) monitoring and evaluating increased access to, and reliability and affordability of, power in sub-Saharan Africa;

(C) maximizing the financial sustainability of power generation, transmission, and distribution in sub-Saharan Africa;

(D) establishing metrics to demonstrate progress on meeting goals relating to access to power, power generation, and distribution in sub-Saharan Africa; and

(E) terminating unsuccessful programs.

(9) A description of how the President intends to promote trade in electrical equipment with countries in sub-Saharan Africa, including a description of how the government of each country receiving assistance pursuant to the strategy—

(A) plans to lower or eliminate import tariffs or other taxes for energy and other power production and distribution technologies destined for sub-Saharan Africa, including equipment used to provide energy access, including solar lanterns, solar home systems, and micro and mini grids; and

(B) plans to protect the intellectual property of companies designing and manufacturing products that can be used to provide energy access in sub-Saharan Africa.

(10) A description of how the President intends to encourage the growth of distributed renewable energy markets in sub-Saharan Africa, including off-grid lighting and power, that includes—

(A) an analysis of the state of distributed renewable energy in sub-Saharan Africa;

(B) a description of market barriers to the deployment of distributed renewable energy technologies both on- and off-grid in sub-Saharan Africa;

(C) an analysis of the efficacy of efforts by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and the United States Agency for International Development to facilitate the financing of the importation, distribution, sale, leasing, or marketing of distributed renewable energy technologies; and

(D) a description of how bolstering distributed renewable energy can enhance the overall effort to increase power access in sub-Saharan Africa.

(11) A description of plans to ensure that small and medium enterprises based in sub-Saharan Africa can fairly compete for energy development and energy access opportunities associated with this Act.

(12) A description of how United States investments to increase access to energy in sub-Saharan Africa may reduce the need for foreign aid and development assistance in the future.

(13) A description of policies or regulations, both domestically and internationally, that create barriers to private financing of the projects undertaken in this Act.

(14) A description of the specific national security benefits to the United States that will be derived from increased energy access in sub-Saharan Africa.

(c) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may, as appropriate, establish an Interagency Working Group to coordinate the activities of relevant United States Government departments and agencies involved in carrying out the strategy required under this section.

(2) FUNCTIONS.—The Interagency Working Group may, among other things—

(A) seek to coordinate the activities of the United States Government departments and agencies involved in implementing the strategy required under this section;

(B) ensure efficient and effective coordination between participating departments and agencies; and

(C) facilitate information sharing, and coordinate partnerships between the United States Government, the private sector, and other development partners to achieve the goals of the strategy.

SEC. 5. PRIORITIZATION OF EFFORTS AND ASSISTANCE FOR POWER PROJECTS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA BY KEY UNITED STATES INSTITUTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In pursuing the policy goals described in section 3, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, the Director of the Trade and Development Agency, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and the Chief Executive Officer and Board of Directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation should, as appropriate, prioritize and expedite institutional efforts and assistance to facilitate the involvement of such institutions in power projects and markets, both on- and off-grid, in sub-Saharan Africa and partner with other investors and local institutions in sub-Saharan Africa, including private sector actors, to specifically increase access to reliable, affordable, and sustainable power in sub-Saharan Africa, including through—

(1) maximizing the number of people with new access to power and power services;

(2) improving and expanding the generation, transmission and distribution of power;

(3) providing reliable power to people and businesses in urban and rural communities;

(4) addressing the energy needs of marginalized people living in areas where there is little or no access to a power grid and developing plans to systematically increase coverage in rural areas;

(5) reducing transmission and distribution losses and improving end-use efficiency and demand-side management;

(6) reducing energy-related impediments to business productivity and investment; and

(7) building the capacity of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to monitor and appropriately and transparently regulate the power sector and encourage private investment in power production and distribution.

(b) EFFECTIVENESS MEASUREMENT.—In prioritizing and expediting institutional efforts and assistance pursuant to this section, as appropriate, such institutions shall use clear, accountable, and metric-based targets to measure the effectiveness of such guarantees and assistance in achieving the goals described in section 3.

(c) PROMOTION OF USE OF PRIVATE FINANCING AND ASSISTANCE.—In carrying out policies under this section, such institutions shall promote the use of private financing and assistance and seek ways to remove barriers to private financing for projects and programs under this Act, including through charitable organizations.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to authorize modifying or limiting the portfolio of the institutions covered by subsection (a) in other developing regions.

SEC. 6. LEVERAGING INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT.

In implementing the strategy described in section 4, the President should direct the United States representatives to appropriate international bodies to use the influence of the United States, consistent with the broad development goals of the United States, to advocate that each such body—

(1) commit to significantly increase efforts to promote investment in well-designed power sector and electrification projects in sub-Saharan Africa that increase energy access, in partnership with the private sector

and consistent with the host countries' absorptive capacity;

(2) address energy needs of individuals and communities where access to an electricity grid is impractical or cost-prohibitive;

(3) enhance coordination with the private sector in sub-Saharan Africa to increase access to electricity;

(4) provide technical assistance to the regulatory authorities of sub-Saharan African governments to remove unnecessary barriers to investment in otherwise commercially viable projects; and

(5) utilize clear, accountable, and metric-based targets to measure the effectiveness of such projects.

SEC. 7. PROGRESS REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall transmit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report on progress made toward achieving the strategy described in section 4 that includes the following:

(1) A report on United States programs supporting implementation of policy and legislative changes leading to increased power generation and access in sub-Saharan Africa, including a description of the number, type, and status of policy, regulatory, and legislative changes initiated or implemented as a result of programs funded or supported by the United States in countries in sub-Saharan Africa to support increased power generation and access after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) A description of power projects receiving United States Government support and how such projects, including off-grid efforts, are intended to achieve the strategy described in section 4.

(3) For each project described in paragraph (2)—

(A) a description of how the project fits into, or encourages modifications of, the national energy plan of the country in which the project will be carried out, including encouraging regulatory reform in that county;

(B) an estimate of the total cost of the project to the consumer, the country in which the project will be carried out, and other investors;

(C) the amount of financing provided or guaranteed by the United States Government for the project;

(D) an estimate of United States Government resources for the project, itemized by funding source, including from the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the United States Agency for International Development, the Department of the Treasury, and other appropriate United States Government departments and agencies;

(E) an estimate of the number and regional locations of individuals, communities, businesses, schools, and health facilities that have gained power connections as a result of the project, with a description of how the reliability, affordability, and sustainability of power has been improved as of the date of the report;

(F) an assessment of the increase in the number of people and businesses with access to power, and in the operating electrical power capacity in megawatts as a result of the project between the date of the enactment of this Act and the date of the report;

(G) a description of efforts to gain meaningful local consultation for projects associated with this Act and any significant estimated noneconomic effects of the efforts carried out pursuant to this Act; and

(H) a description of the participation by small and medium enterprises based in sub-Saharan Africa on projects associated with this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to start by thanking this bill's Senate cosponsors. The Senate sponsors of the original measure are BOB CORKER, chairman of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, and the ranking member, Mr. CARDIN, as well as two other Senators, MARCO RUBIO and CHRIS COONS. I thank them for their good work to ensure this bill's Senate passage. We had our House version passed into the Senate.

I also want to thank Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL, as well as Chairman CHRIS SMITH, and Ranking Member KAREN BASS of the Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee for working so closely with me to develop the concept for this legislation over the last several years.

Last Congress, the House passed a similar version of the measure we consider today. With today's action, this bill will head to the President's desk for signature.

The Electrify Africa Act seeks to address the massive electricity shortage in Africa. It is a direct response to the fact that today 600 million people living in sub-Saharan Africa—that is 70 percent of the population—do not have access to reliable electricity. The Electrify Africa Act offers a market-based response to this problem, and it will bring about the development of affordable, reliable energy in Africa.

Why do we want to help increase energy access to the continent? Well, to create jobs and to improve lives in both Africa and America. It is no secret that Africa has great potential as a trading partner and could help create jobs here in the U.S.

As the Foreign Affairs Committee investigated how to make better use of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, which was landmark legislation passed over a decade ago to expand trade with Africa, we learned that the lack of affordable, reliable energy made the production of goods for trade and export nearly impossible. Even where other conditions supported manufacturing, the cost of running a plant on a diesel generator is prohibited.

However, the U.S. is not alone in its interest in enhancing trade with Africa. We have competition. Just last month, the People's Republic of China pledged $60 billion in financial support to the continent. If the United States wants to tap into this potential consumer base, we need to be aggressively building partnerships on the continent, which is what this bill does.

This bill will also have a tangible impact on people's lives. As former chairman of the Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee, I have seen firsthand how our considerable investments in improving access to health care and education in Africa are undermined by a lack of reliable electricity.

Mr. ENGEL and I visited a power provider in rural Tanzania, which would help meet the goals of this bill, in a place where only 10 percent of the population has access to electricity. In areas like that throughout Africa, schoolchildren are forced to study by inefficient, dangerous kerosene lamps. Cold storage of lifesaving vaccines is almost impossible without reliable electricity. Too many families resort to using charcoal or other toxic fuel sources whose fumes cause more deaths than HIV/AIDS and malaria combined and also damage the eyesight of the children trying to study.

In Tanzania, we now have American entrepreneurs bringing new technology and management expertise to the remotest areas of Africa, and that is improving lives. Many of us on the committee have worked to transform our foreign assistance from programs that offer extensive Band-Aids to policies that support economic growth and independence. The Electrify Africa Act is part of this transition.

This bill mandates a clear and comprehensive U.S. policy providing the private sector with the platform that it needs to invest in African electricity.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman ROYCE, Subcommittee Chairman SMITH, and Ranking Member BASS. I also want to thank our Senate colleagues, especially Chairman CORKER and Ranking Member CARDIN, for advancing this effort. We are now in a place to send this legislation to the President's desk.

Mr. Speaker, across sub-Saharan Africa, more than 600 million individuals live without access to reliable electricity. That is double the U.S. population without electricity, nearly two-thirds of their population.

For individuals, that deficit means never knowing what will happen with the flip of a switch. It means a day's work needs to come to an end at sunset, that food can't be refrigerated, and that technology that is so valuable for connecting to the rest of the world can't be relied upon.

For communities, lack of access to power undermines the ability of hospitals to deliver health care because

vaccines spoil and medical equipment sits useless. Businesses can't expand and thrive. Schools are limited in what they can offer students.

For countries, these factors combine to undermine stability and stymie progress. Without reliable power, countries can't become strong players in the global economy or strong partners on the global stage. The better these countries do, the better it is for their neighbors, for their region, and for the entire world.

As you can see, the United States has an interest in helping these countries grapple with this challenge and making sure the lights stay on. That is why the Electrify Africa Act is such an important bill.

This legislation puts into law President Obama's 2013 Power Africa initiative. It seeks to create strong, new partnerships among governments, banks, and other private sector investors with the aim of providing first-time power to 50 million people by the year 2020. It calls for a long-term strategy from our own government for assisting sub-Saharan African countries with national power strategies, and it directs other American agencies to make assistance for power projects in sub-Saharan Africa a top priority. It helps bring American influence to bear around the world to encourage international bodies to bring a new focus on this challenge.

Mr. Speaker, I fully support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend for yielding.

I want to congratulate Chairman ROYCE on the Electrify Africa Act as a companion bill to the legislation that we have before us today. We held a hearing in my subcommittee that KAREN BASS will remember well in November of 2014. The blessings that will accrue from a huge effort to electrify Africa are almost without limit, especially when it comes to health care and ensuring that students can have proper light to go to school and to study, particularly at night. All of the benefits that we take for granted in the United States and in other parts of the world still have yet to come to Africa.

In the 21st century, energy has become vital, as we all know, to modern societies. We no longer have to shop for food each day. Refrigerators keep food cold and preserved longer, whether in our homes, in restaurants, or during the process of transportation. Cell phones, computers, televisions, and other electronics require electrical power to allow us to lead more productive lives in the modern world and increasingly in the developing world.

As we have seen in the recent Ebola epidemic and in the current Zika virus epidemic, it is vital that medicines and plasma be kept cold so that they don't lose their potency. Of course, in the preservation of blood and so many other items that are essential to life, electricity facilitates their continuance and their potency.

□ 1715

It is unfortunate that the continent of Africa has so many people who have been denied the ability to enjoy the advances of science. Currently, only 290 million people out of about 914 million Africans have access to electricity and the total number lacking continues to rise.

Bioenergy, mainly fuel, wood, and charcoal, is still the major source of fuel, and as the chairman pointed out in his opening comments, it threatens the lives of so many people in Africa, including the eyesight of many of those who experience that.

On the other hand, hydropower accounts for about 20 percent of the total power supply in the region, but less than 10 percent of its estimated potential has been realized. Persistent drought in some areas makes hydropower unpredictable.

The Electrify Africa Act takes an all-of-the-above approach—all of these good prospects—in promoting the widest selection of sources of energy that includes all forms of fossil fuels, but also hydroelectric and renewable energy sources.

This facilitates African nations to use all available energy sources. Coal, which is abundant in Africa, will be in the mix, and, hopefully, we can help them import clean coal technology to mitigate pollution.

Again, I thank the chairman for this legislation.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS), who is the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations and who is a leader on sub-Saharan Africa issues.

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2152, the Electrify Africa Act.

I commend the leadership and the work especially of our chair, Mr. ROYCE, of our ranking member, Mr. ENGEL, of our subcommittee chair, Mr. SMITH, and also of our committed members and staffs of the House Foreign Affairs Committee as well as of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on this critical bill.

Because of this bill, the lives of millions of people can be changed immeasurably for the better.

I remind my colleagues that two-thirds of the population of sub-Saharan Africa live without electricity, particularly in the rural areas. This means that children are forced to study by candlelight and that doctors and midwives are delivering babies by relying on flashlights.

The effort to devise an inexpensive, safe, and reliable source of power is being addressed not only in the small, brilliant initiatives by young African entrepreneurs, such as by those whom I met when I had the honor of traveling with President Obama to the 2015 Global Entrepreneurship Summit in Nairobi, but also in the large, innovative public-private partnerships, such as Power Africa.

Electrify Africa can contribute to this effort in a major way by helping to address the glaring absence of electrical power for at least 50 million people in sub-Saharan Africa by 2020, thus improving the education, health care, and other basic needs of millions of Africans.

The lack of access to power adversely affects broad-based economic development on the continent. This was particularly evident last year during the Ebola crisis in three small African countries.

That battle was won with the help of the U.S. and with well-coordinated regional efforts on the ground. Yet, in order to win the war against other crippling diseases, there must be greater access to electrical power.

In working together, we have crafted legislation that will focus on increasing access to electricity in rural and poor communities through small, renewable energy projects that will result in at least millions of Africans having access to electricity for the first time in their lives by 2020.

When we worked together last year to pass AGOA, we knew much more was needed in order to build the infrastructure that supported African nations in their ability to develop the capacity to become full trading partners with the United States.

This legislation, along with AGOA, is consistent with the theme from the continent—trade, not aid—moving toward the continent of Africa's being self-sufficient and self-determined.

I am proud to serve as an original cosponsor of this legislation, and I invite fellow Members to support this bill as well.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I thank Chairman ROYCE, Ranking Member ENGEL, and the subcommittee chairman and ranking member.

Sometimes the right thing to do is also in our strategic interests as a country, and this piece of legislation is a great example of that. I urge this body to pass it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I again thank all of this bill's cosponsors in the House and in the Senate as well as the House and Senate staffs, particularly Nilmini Rubin.

I also thank Andy Olson, whose hard work has gotten us here today.

I also acknowledge Andrew Herscowitz—the USAID Power Africa's coordinator—and his team, who are watching this debate right now in the gallery.

I think, as we look at the range of enthusiasm for this legislation, at the last count I took, we had letters of support from 35 African ambassadors, from the Chamber of Commerce, from the Corporate Council on Africa, from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, from the American Academy of Pediatrics, and, of course, from the ONE Campaign.

The United States has economic and national security interests in the continued development of the African continent. This bill sets out a comprehensive, sustainable, and market-based plan to bring 600 million Africans out of the dark and into the global economy, benefiting American businesses and workers at the same time and, frankly, saving lives at the same time.

So I urge all Members to support the Electrify Africa Act.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I stand in strong support of S. 2152 an important legislation.

I support S. 2152 because it seeks to establish a comprehensive United States policy that encourages the efforts of countries in Africa to develop an appropriate mix of electricity solutions, including renewable energy, for more broadly distributed electricity access in order to support poverty reduction, promote development outcomes, and drive economic growth, and for other purposes.

According to the World Bank, those living on $1.25 day in Africa accounted for 48.5% of the population in that region in 2010.

Moreover, the U.S. Energy Information Administration statistics state that in 2011 the whole of Africa possessed only 78 gigawatts of installed generation capacity, of which South Africa accounted for 44 gigawatts.

By comparison, installed capacity in the United States alone was 1,053 gigawatts.

In other words, all of Africa has only 7% of the electric capacity of the United States.

This is why S. 2152 is important, as it can be instrumental in helping to facilitate higher energy capacities in Africa.

Furthermore, actual production capacity for Africa is likely to be substantially lower than the theoretical quantity because of inadequate maintenance, outmoded equipment and fuel shortages.

Using per-capita data, a US citizen on average uses 12,461 kilowatt hours of electricity per annum; a citizen of Ethiopia uses 52.

On average, only 30% of Africa's citizens have any access to electric electricity, and even where electricity is available, provision can be sporadic, with frequent electricity cuts and ''brown-outs.''

For now, the continent remains largely dependent on hydroelectricity with 13 countries utilizing hydroelectricity for 60% or more of their energy.

But, hydroelectricity relies on rain and Africa's rain fall is sporadic at best.

The reliance on sporadic rainfall adversely impacts the effectiveness and accessibility to hydroelectricity sources.

Energy is a key life blood of every economy and community.

In addition to electricity in homes, the energy sector has been instrumental in creating millions of jobs, providing lighting to communities and healthcare centers, fueling our vehicles, increasing literacy and life expectancy.

As an advocate for energy empowerment in Africa, I have championed energy brain trusts that are convened to serve as a platform for all relevant stakeholders from the energy sectors including coal, electric, natural gas, nuclear, oil and emerging energy sources such as wind, solar, hydroelectricity and turbine energy.

I support the Electrify Africa Act as it will address the energy issues of the day.

As you all may know, with enthusiasm, optimism and a collaborative spirit I partnered with my colleagues here in Congress and experts in other U.S. agencies such as USAID, which has been spearheading innovative energy initiatives through its inter-agency efforts.

This legislation is important because it will increase the number of people with new access to electricity and electricity services.

This legislation will improve and expand the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity.

I support this legislation because it provides reliable electricity to people and businesses in urban and rural communities.

It will address the energy needs of citizens living in areas where there is little or no access to electricity grids.

It is also important because it will help develop plans to systemically increase coverage in rural areas.

It will facilitate the reduction in transmission and distribution losses and improve end-use efficiency and demand-side management as well as end energy-related impediments to business productivity and investment.

Additionally, this legislation will facilitate the capacity of countries in Africa to monitor appropriately and transparently the regulation of the power sector.

It will also serve as an economic stimulator because it will encourage private investment in energy production and distribution.

Overall, this legislation is important because it makes accessible a human necessity: electricity, which will dramatically improve the quality of life of children, women and men.

Access to electricity will aid the mid-wife in successfully delivering a healthy child, while insuring the mother's successful recovery.

Access to electricity, taken for granted in some parts of the world is critical in Africa because it will provide the light for a child to do his or her homework.

Electricity gives Africa's future innovator, politician and teacher access to the internet: opening countless doors.

I support this legislation because it will promote first-time access to electricity and electricity services for at least 50,000,000 people in Africa.

This legislation will facilitate the installation of at least 20,000 additional megawatts of electricity in Africa by 2020 in both urban and rural areas.

When Africa succeeds the world succeeds and this is why I support this legislation and I thank my colleagues for their bipartisan support across both chambers of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2152.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AGREEMENT ON SOCIAL SECURITY BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF HUNGARY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 114–95)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Social Security Amendments of 1977 (Public Law 95–216, 42 U.S.C. 433(e)(1)), I transmit herewith a social security totalization agreement with Hungary, titled, ''Agreement on Social Security between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Hungary,'' and a related agreement titled, ''Administrative Arrangement for the Implementation of the Agreement on Social Security between the United States of America and the Government of Hungary'' (collectively the ''Agreements''). The Agreements were signed in Budapest, Hungary, on February 3, 2015.

The Agreements are similar in objective to the social security agreements already in force with most European Union countries, Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Norway, the Republic of Korea, and Switzerland. Such bilateral agreements provide for limited coordination between the United States and foreign social security systems to eliminate dual social security coverage and taxation, and to help prevent the lost benefit protection that can occur when workers divide their careers between two countries.

The Agreements contain all provisions mandated by section 233 of the Social Security Act and the provisions that I deem appropriate to carry out the purposes of section 233, pursuant to section 233(c)(4) of the Social Security Act.

I also transmit for the information of the Congress a report required by section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act on the estimated number of individuals who will be affected by the Agreements and the estimated cost effect. The Department of State and the Social Security Administration have recommended the Agreements to me.

I commend the Agreements and related documents.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *February 1, 2016*.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1829

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York) at 6 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3700, HOUSING OPPORTUNITY THROUGH MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2015

Mr. STIVERS from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114–411) on the resolution (H. Res. 594) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3700) to provide housing opportunities in the United States through modernization of various housing programs, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 2187, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 4168, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

FAIR INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFESSIONAL EXPERTS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2187) to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise its regulations regarding the qualifications of natural persons as accredited investors, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 347, nays 8, not voting 78, as follows:

[Roll No. 46]

YEAS—347

Abraham
Adams
Aguilar
Amash
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (MI)
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Byrne
Calvert
Capps
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clawson (FL)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Dold
Donovan
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaHood
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lieu, Ted
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn
Marchant
Marino
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moore
Moulton
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
O'Rourke
Olson
Pallone
Palmer
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Polis
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rooney (FL)
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Russell
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanford
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NAYS—8

Capuano
Clark (MA)
Lynch
McGovern
Ryan (OH)
Sarbanes
Sensenbrenner
Tsongas

NOT VOTING—78

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Carter (GA)
Castro (TX)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Conyers
Crowley
Cummings
Davis, Rodney
Doggett
Edwards
Engel
Fattah
Flores
Franks (AZ)
Grayson
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Huizenga (MI)
Issa
Jackson Lee
Johnson (GA)
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Kennedy
Kildee
King (IA)
Kirkpatrick
LaMalfa
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebsack
Maloney, Sean
Massie
Messer
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Nadler
Noem
Nunes
Palazzo
Peterson
Pompeo
Ribble
Richmond
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Ros-Lehtinen
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Schiff
Scott, Austin
Serrano
Sires
Smith (MO)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Tiberi
Valadao
Westerman
Westmoreland
Wilson (FL)

□ 1847

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 46, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 46, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 46, I was meeting with constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Mr. JOYCE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 46, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall no. 46, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 46, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

SMALL BUSINESS CAPITAL FORMATION ENHANCEMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4168) to amend the Small Business Investment Incentive Act of 1980 to require an annual review by the Securities and Exchange Commission of the annual government-business forum on capital formation that is held pursuant to such Act, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 390, nays 1, not voting 42, as follows:

[Roll No. 47]

YEAS—390

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Amash
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Byrne
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
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ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1854

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my vote was not recorded on Roll Call #46 on H.R. 2187—Fair Investment Opportunities for Professional Experts Act. I am not recorded because I was absent due to awaiting the impending birth of my son in San Antonio, Texas. Had I been present I would have voted AYE.

Mr. Speaker, my vote was not recorded on Roll Call #47 on H.R. 4168—Small Business Capital Formation Enhancement Act. I am not recorded because I was absent due to awaiting the impending birth of my son in San Antonio, Texas. Had I been present I would have voted AYE.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1019 AND H.R. 1401

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I be removed as a cosponsor from both H.R. 1019 and H.R. 1401.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 546

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove myself as a cosponsor of H.R. 546, the ACE Kids Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the additional motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later.

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2015

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 4188) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2016 and 2017, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATIONS

SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''PART III—COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATIONS AND REPORTS TO CONGRESS

''CHAPTER 27—AUTHORIZATIONS

''§ 2702. Authorization of appropriations

''Funds are authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017 for necessary expenses of the Coast Guard as follows:

''(1) For the operation and maintenance of the Coast Guard, not otherwise provided for—

''(A) $6,981,036,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

''(B) $6,981,036,000 for fiscal year 2017.

''(2) For the acquisition, construction, renovation, and improvement of aids to navigation, shore facilities, vessels, and aircraft, including equipment related thereto, and for maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment—

''(A) $1,945,000,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

''(B) $1,945,000,000 for fiscal year 2017.

''(3) For the Coast Guard Reserve program, including operations and maintenance of the program, personnel and training costs, equipment, and services—

''(A) $140,016,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

''(B) $140,016,000 for fiscal year 2017.

''(4) For the environmental compliance and restoration functions of the Coast Guard under chapter 19 of this title—

''(A) $16,701,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

''(B) $16,701,000 for fiscal year 2017.

''(5) To the Commandant of the Coast Guard for research, development, test, and evaluation of technologies, materials, and human factors directly related to improving the performance of the Coast Guard's mission with respect to search and rescue, aids to navigation, marine safety, marine environmental protection, enforcement of laws and treaties, ice operations, oceanographic research, and defense readiness, and for maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment—

''(A) $19,890,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

''(B) $19,890,000 for fiscal year 2017.

''§ 2704. Authorized levels of military strength and training

''(a) ACTIVE DUTY STRENGTH.—The Coast Guard is authorized an end-of-year strength for active duty personnel of 43,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

''(b) MILITARY TRAINING STUDENT LOADS.—The Coast Guard is authorized average military training student loads for each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017 as follows:

''(1) For recruit and special training, 2,500 student years.

''(2) For flight training, 165 student years.

''(3) For professional training in military and civilian institutions, 350 student years.

''(4) For officer acquisition, 1,200 student years.

''CHAPTER 29—REPORTS

''§ 2904. Manpower requirements plan

''(a) IN GENERAL.—On the date on which the President submits to the Congress a budget for fiscal year 2017 under section 1105 of title 31, on the date on which the President submits to the Congress a budget for fiscal year 2019 under such section, and every 4 years thereafter, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a manpower requirements plan.

''(b) SCOPE.—A manpower requirements plan submitted under subsection (a) shall include for each mission of the Coast Guard—

''(1) an assessment of all projected mission requirements for the upcoming fiscal year and for each of the 3 fiscal years thereafter;

''(2) the number of active duty, reserve, and civilian personnel assigned or available to fulfill such mission requirements—

''(A) currently; and

''(B) as projected for the upcoming fiscal year and each of the 3 fiscal years thereafter;

''(3) the number of active duty, reserve, and civilian personnel required to fulfill such mission requirements—

''(A) currently; and

''(B) as projected for the upcoming fiscal year and each of the 3 fiscal years thereafter;

''(4) an identification of any capability gaps between mission requirements and mission performance caused by deficiencies in the numbers of personnel available—

''(A) currently; and

''(B) as projected for the upcoming fiscal year and each of the 3 fiscal years thereafter; and

''(5) an identification of the actions the Commandant will take to address capability gaps identified under paragraph (4).

''(c) CONSIDERATION.—In composing a manpower requirements plan for submission under subsection (a), the Commandant shall consider—

''(1) the marine safety strategy required under section 2116 of title 46;

''(2) information on the adequacy of the acquisition workforce included in the most recent report under section 2903 of this title; and

''(3) any other Federal strategic planning effort the Commandant considers appropriate.''.

(b) REQUIREMENT FOR PRIOR AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 662 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating such section as section 2701;

(2) by transferring such section to appear before section 2702 of such title (as added by subsection (a) of this section); and

(3) by striking paragraphs (1) through (5) and inserting the following:

''(1) For the operation and maintenance of the Coast Guard, not otherwise provided for.

''(2) For the acquisition, construction, renovation, and improvement of aids to navigation, shore facilities, vessels, and aircraft, including equipment related thereto, and for maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment.

''(3) For the Coast Guard Reserve program, including operations and maintenance of the program, personnel and training costs, equipment, and services.

''(4) For the environmental compliance and restoration functions of the Coast Guard under chapter 19 of this title.

''(5) For research, development, test, and evaluation of technologies, materials, and human factors directly related to improving the performance of the Coast Guard.

''(6) For alteration or removal of bridges over navigable waters of the United States constituting obstructions to navigation, and for personnel and administrative costs associated with the Alteration of Bridges Program.''.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF PERSONNEL END STRENGTHS.—Section 661 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating such section as section 2703; and

(2) by transferring such section to appear before section 2704 of such title (as added by subsection (a) of this section).

(d) REPORTS.—

(1) TRANSMISSION OF ANNUAL COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION REQUEST.—Section 662a of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating such section as section 2901;

(B) by transferring such section to appear before section 2904 of such title (as added by subsection (a) of this section); and

(C) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1) by striking ''described in section 661'' and inserting ''described in section 2703''; and

(ii) in paragraph (2) by striking ''described in section 662'' and inserting ''described in section 2701''.

(2) CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN.—Section 663 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating such section as section 2902; and

(B) by transferring such section to appear after section 2901 of such title (as so redesignated and transferred by paragraph (1) of this subsection).

(3) MAJOR ACQUISITIONS.—Section 569a of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating such section as section 2903;

(B) by transferring such section to appear after section 2902 of such title (as so redesignated and transferred by paragraph (2) of this subsection); and

(C) in subsection (c)(2) by striking ''of this subchapter''.

(e) ICEBREAKERS.—

(1) ICEBREAKING ON THE GREAT LAKES.—For fiscal years 2016 and 2017, the Commandant of the Coast Guard may use funds made available pursuant to section 2702(2) of title 14, United States Code (as added by subsection (a) of this section) for the selection of a design for and the construction of an icebreaker that is capable of buoy tending to enhance icebreaking capacity on the Great Lakes.

(2) POLAR ICEBREAKING.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated under section 2702(2) of title 14, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a), there is authorized to be appropriated to the Coast Guard $4,000,000 for fiscal year 2016 and $10,000,000 for fiscal year 2017 for preacquisition activities for a new polar icebreaker, including initial specification development and feasibility studies.

(f) ADDITIONAL SUBMISSIONS.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives—

(1) each plan required under section 2904 of title 14, United States Code, as added by subsection (a) of this section;

(2) each plan required under section 2903(e) of title 14, United States Code, as added by section 206 of this Act;

(3) each plan required under section 2902 of title 14, United States Code, as redesignated by subsection (d) of this section; and

(4) each mission need statement required under section 569 of title 14, United States Code.

SEC. 102. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) ANALYSIS FOR TITLE 14.—The analysis for title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding after the item relating to part II the following:

''III. Coast Guard Authorizations and Reports to Congress ..... 2701''.

(b) ANALYSIS FOR CHAPTER 15.—The analysis for chapter 15 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 569a.

(c) ANALYSIS FOR CHAPTER 17.—The analysis for chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking the items relating to sections 661, 662, 662a, and 663.

(d) ANALYSIS FOR CHAPTER 27.—The analysis for chapter 27 of title 14, United States Code, as added by section 101(a) of this Act, is amended by inserting—

(1) before the item relating to section 2702 the following:

''2701. Requirement for prior authorization of appropriations.'';

and

(2) before the item relating to section 2704 the following:

''2703. Authorization of personnel end strengths.''.

(e) ANALYSIS FOR CHAPTER 29.—The analysis for chapter 29 of title 14, United States Code, as added by section 101(a) of this Act, is amended by inserting before the item relating to section 2904 the following:

''2901. Transmission of annual Coast Guard authorization request.

''2902. Capital investment plan.

''2903. Major acquisitions.''.

(f) MISSION NEED STATEMENT.—Section 569(b) of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2) by striking ''in section 569a(e)'' and inserting ''in section 2903''; and

(2) in paragraph (3) by striking ''under section 663(a)(1)'' and inserting ''under section 2902(a)(1)''.

TITLE II—COAST GUARD

SEC. 201. VICE COMMANDANT.

(a) GRADES AND RATINGS.—Section 41 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''an admiral,'' and inserting ''admirals (two);''.

(b) VICE COMMANDANT; APPOINTMENT.—Section 47 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''vice admiral'' and inserting ''admiral''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 51 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by inserting ''admiral or'' before ''vice admiral,'';

(2) in subsection (b) by inserting ''admiral or'' before ''vice admiral,'' each place it appears; and

(3) in subsection (c) by inserting ''admiral or'' before ''vice admiral,''.

SEC. 202. VICE ADMIRALS.

Section 50 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) The President may—

''(A) designate, within the Coast Guard, no more than five positions of importance and responsibility that shall be held by officers who, while so serving—

''(i) shall have the grade of vice admiral, with the pay and allowances of that grade; and

''(ii) shall perform such duties as the Commandant may prescribe, except that if the President designates five such positions, one position shall be the Chief of Staff of the Coast Guard; and

''(B) designate, within the executive branch, other than within the Coast Guard or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, positions of importance and responsibility that shall be held by officers who, while so serving, shall have the grade of vice admiral, with the pay and allowances of that grade.''; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(A) by striking ''under paragraph (1)'' and inserting ''under paragraph (1)(A)''; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (B) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

''(C) at the discretion of the Secretary, while awaiting orders after being relieved from the position, beginning on the day the officer is relieved from the position, but not for more than 60 days; and''.

SEC. 203. COAST GUARD REMISSION OF INDEBTEDNESS.

(a) EXPANSION OF AUTHORITY TO REMIT INDEBTEDNESS.—Section 461 of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 461. Remission of indebtedness

''The Secretary may have remitted or cancelled any part of a person's indebtedness to the United States or any instrumentality of the United States if—

''(1) the indebtedness was incurred while the person served on active duty as a member of the Coast Guard; and

''(2) the Secretary determines that remitting or cancelling the indebtedness is in the best interest of the United States.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 13 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 461 and inserting the following:

''461. Remission of indebtedness.''.

SEC. 204. ACQUISITION REFORM.

(a) MINIMUM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—Section 572(d)(3) of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) through (H) as subparagraphs (E) through (J), respectively;

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C);

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

''(B) the performance data to be used to determine whether the key performance parameters have been resolved;''; and

(4) by inserting after subparagraph (C), as redesignated by paragraph (2) of this subsection, the following:

''(D) the results during test and evaluation that will be required to demonstrate that a capability, asset, or subsystem meets performance requirements;''.

(b) CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN.—Section 2902 of title 14, United States Code, as redesignated and otherwise amended by this Act, is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''completion;'' and inserting ''completion based on the proposed appropriations included in the budget;''; and

(B) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''at the projected funding levels;'' and inserting ''based on the proposed appropriations included in the budget;''; and

(2) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c), and inserting after subsection (a) the following:

''(b) NEW CAPITAL ASSETS.—In the fiscal year following each fiscal year for which appropriations are enacted for a new capital asset, the report submitted under subsection (a) shall include—

''(1) an estimated life-cycle cost estimate for the new capital asset;

''(2) an assessment of the impact the new capital asset will have on—

''(A) delivery dates for each capital asset;

''(B) estimated completion dates for each capital asset;

''(C) the total estimated cost to complete each capital asset; and

''(D) other planned construction or improvement projects; and

''(3) recommended funding levels for each capital asset necessary to meet the estimated completion dates and total estimated costs included in the such asset's approved acquisition program baseline.''; and

(3) by amending subsection (c), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

''(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

''(1) the term 'unfunded priority' means a program or mission requirement that—

''(A) has not been selected for funding in the applicable proposed budget;

''(B) is necessary to fulfill a requirement associated with an operational need; and

''(C) the Commandant would have recommended for inclusion in the applicable proposed budget had additional resources been available or had the requirement emerged before the budget was submitted; and

''(2) the term 'new capital asset' means—

''(A) an acquisition program that does not have an approved acquisition program baseline; or

''(B) the acquisition of a capital asset in excess of the number included in the approved acquisition program baseline.''.

(c) DAYS AWAY FROM HOMEPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall—

(1) implement a standard for tracking operational days at sea for Coast Guard cutters that does not include days during which such cutters are undergoing maintenance or repair; and

(2) notify the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate of the standard implemented under paragraph (1).

(d) FIXED WING AIRCRAFT FLEET MIX ANALYSIS.—Not later than September 30, 2016, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a revised fleet mix analysis of Coast Guard fixed wing aircraft.

(e) LONG-TERM MAJOR ACQUISITIONS PLAN.—Section 2903 of title 14, United States Code, as redesignated and otherwise amended by this Act, is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (g); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) LONG-TERM MAJOR ACQUISITIONS PLAN.—Each report under subsection (a) shall include a plan that describes for the upcoming fiscal year, and for each of the 20 fiscal years thereafter—

''(1) the numbers and types of cutters and aircraft to be decommissioned;

''(2) the numbers and types of cutters and aircraft to be acquired to—

''(A) replace the cutters and aircraft identified under paragraph (1); or

''(B) address an identified capability gap; and

''(3) the estimated level of funding in each fiscal year required to—

''(A) acquire the cutters and aircraft identified under paragraph (2);

''(B) acquire related command, control, communications, computer, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance systems; and

''(C) acquire, construct, or renovate shoreside infrastructure.

''(f) QUARTERLY UPDATES ON RISKS OF PROGRAMS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 days after the end of each fiscal year quarter, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the committees of Congress specified in subsection (a) an update setting forth a current assessment of the risks associated with all current major acquisition programs.

''(2) ELEMENTS.—Each update under this subsection shall set forth, for each current major acquisition program, the following:

''(A) The top five current risks to such program.

''(B) Any failure of such program to demonstrate a key performance parameter or threshold during operational test and evaluation conducted during the fiscal year quarter preceding such update.

''(C) Whether there has been any decision during such fiscal year quarter to order full-rate production before all key performance parameters or thresholds are met.

''(D) Whether there has been any breach of major acquisition program cost (as defined by the Major Systems Acquisition Manual) during such fiscal year quarter.

''(E) Whether there has been any breach of major acquisition program schedule (as so defined) during such fiscal year quarter.''.

SEC. 205. AUXILIARY JURISDICTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 822 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''The purpose'' and inserting the following:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The purpose''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) LIMITATION.—The Auxiliary may conduct a patrol of a waterway, or a portion thereof, only if—

''(1) the Commandant has determined such waterway, or portion thereof, is navigable for purposes of the jurisdiction of the Coast Guard; or

''(2) a State or other proper authority has requested such patrol pursuant to section 141 of this title or section 13109 of title 46.''.

(b) NOTIFICATION.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard shall—

(1) review the waterways patrolled by the Coast Guard Auxiliary in the most recently completed fiscal year to determine whether such waterways are eligible or ineligible for patrol under section 822(b) of title 14, United States Code (as added by subsection (a)); and

(2) not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, provide to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a written notification of—

(A) any waterways determined ineligible for patrol under paragraph (1); and

(B) the actions taken by the Commandant to ensure Auxiliary patrols do not occur on such waterways.

SEC. 206. COAST GUARD COMMUNITIES.

Section 409 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1998 (14 U.S.C. 639 note) is amended in the second sentence by striking ''90 days'' and inserting ''30 days''.

SEC. 207. POLAR ICEBREAKERS.

(a) INCREMENTAL FUNDING AUTHORITY FOR POLAR ICEBREAKERS.—In fiscal year 2016 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Commandant of the Coast Guard may enter into a contract or contracts for the acquisition of polar icebreakers and associated equipment using incremental funding.

(b) ''POLAR SEA'' MATERIEL CONDITION ASSESSMENT AND SERVICE LIFE EXTENSION.—Section 222 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–213; 126 Stat. 1560) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall—

''(1) complete a materiel condition assessment with respect to the Polar Sea;

''(2) make a determination of whether it is cost effective to reactivate the Polar Sea compared with other options to provide icebreaking services as part of a strategy to maintain polar icebreaking services; and

''(3) submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate—

''(A) the assessment required under paragraph (1); and

''(B) written notification of the determination required under paragraph (2).'';

(2) in subsection (b) by striking ''analysis'' and inserting ''written notification'';

(3) by striking subsection (c);

(4) by redesignating subsections (d) through (h) as subsections (c) through (g), respectively;

(5) in subsection (c) (as redesignated by paragraph (4) of this section)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A) by striking ''based on the analysis required''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C) by striking ''analysis'' and inserting ''written notification'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking ''analysis'' each place it appears and inserting ''written notification'';

(ii) by striking ''subsection (a)'' and inserting ''subsection (a)(3)(B)'';

(iii) by striking ''subsection (c)'' each place it appears and inserting ''that subsection''; and

(iv) by striking ''under subsection (a)(5)''; and

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking ''in the analysis submitted under this section'';

(ii) by striking ''(a)(5)'' and inserting ''(a)'';

(iii) by striking ''then'' and all that follows through ''(A)'' and inserting ''then'';

(iv) by striking ''; or'' and inserting a period; and

(v) by striking subparagraph (B); and

(6) in subsection (d) (as redesignated by paragraph (4) of this subsection) by striking ''in subsection (d)'' and inserting ''in subsection (c)''.

SEC. 208. AIR FACILITY CLOSURES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 676 the following:

''§ 676a. Air facility closures

''(a) PROHIBITION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Coast Guard may not—

''(A) close a Coast Guard air facility that was in operation on November 30, 2014; or

''(B) retire, transfer, relocate, or deploy an aviation asset from an air facility described in subparagraph (A) for the purpose of closing such facility.

''(2) SUNSET.—Paragraph (1) shall have no force or effect beginning on the later of—

''(A) January 1, 2018; or

''(B) the date on which the Secretary submits to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, and to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, rotary wing strategic plans prepared in accordance with section 208(b) of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015.

''(b) CLOSURES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on January 1, 2018, the Secretary may not close a Coast Guard air facility, except as specified by this section.

''(2) DETERMINATIONS.—The Secretary may not propose closing or terminating operations at a Coast Guard air facility unless the Secretary determines that—

''(A) remaining search and rescue capabilities maintain the safety of the maritime public in the area of the air facility;

''(B) regional or local prevailing weather and marine conditions, including water temperatures or unusual tide and current conditions, do not require continued operation of the air facility; and

''(C) Coast Guard search and rescue standards related to search and response times are met.

''(3) PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT.—Prior to closing an air facility, the Secretary shall provide opportunities for public comment, including the convening of public meetings in communities in the area of responsibility of the air facility with regard to the proposed closure or cessation of operations at the air facility.

''(4) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—Prior to closure, cessation of operations, or any significant reduction in personnel and use of a Coast Guard air facility that is in operation on or after December 31, 2015, the Secretary shall—

''(A) submit to the Congress a proposal for such closure, cessation, or reduction in operations along with the budget of the President submitted to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31 for the fiscal year in which the action will be carried out; and

''(B) not later than 7 days after the date a proposal for an air facility is submitted pursuant to subparagraph (A), provide written notice of such proposal to each of the following:

''(i) Each member of the House of Representatives who represents a district in which the air facility is located.

''(ii) Each member of the Senate who represents a State in which the air facility is located.

''(iii) Each member of the House of Representatives who represents a district in which assets of the air facility conduct search and rescue operations.

''(iv) Each member of the Senate who represents a State in which assets of the air facility conduct search and rescue operations.

''(v) The Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

''(vi) The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

''(vii) The Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

''(viii) The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

''(c) OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY.—The Secretary may implement any reasonable management efficiencies within the air station and air facility network, such as modifying the operational posture of units or reallocating resources as necessary to ensure the safety of the maritime public nationwide.''.

(b) ROTARY WING STRATEGIC PLANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall prepare the plans specified in paragraph (2) to adequately address contingencies arising from potential future aviation casualties or the planned or unplanned retirement of rotary wing airframes to avoid to the greatest extent practicable any substantial gap or diminishment in Coast Guard operational capabilities.

(2) ROTARY WING STRATEGIC PLANS.—

(A) ROTARY WING CONTINGENCY PLAN.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall develop and submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a contingency plan—

(i) to address the planned or unplanned losses of rotary wing airframes;

(ii) to reallocate resources as necessary to ensure the safety of the maritime public nationwide; and

(iii) to ensure the operational posture of Coast Guard units.

(B) ROTARY WING REPLACEMENT CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall develop and submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a capital investment plan for the acquisition of new rotary wing airframes to replace the Coast Guard's legacy helicopters and fulfil all existing mission requirements.

(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—The plan developed under this subparagraph shall provide—

(I) a total estimated cost for completion;

(II) a timetable for completion of the acquisition project and phased in transition to new airframes; and

(III) projected annual funding levels for each fiscal year.

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) ANALYSIS FOR CHAPTER 17.—The analysis for chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 676 the following:

''676a. Air facility closures.''.

(2) REPEAL OF PROHIBITION.—Section 225 of the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–281; 128 Stat. 3022) is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (b); and

(B) by striking ''(a) IN GENERAL.—''.

SEC. 209. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO TITLE 14, UNITED STATES CODE.

Title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(1) in the analysis for part I, by striking the item relating to chapter 19 and inserting the following:

''19. Environmental Compliance and Restoration Program ..... 690'';

(2) in section 46(a), by striking ''subsection'' and inserting ''section'';

(3) in section 47, in the section heading by striking ''***commandant***'' and inserting ''***Commandant***'';

(4) in section 93(f), by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) LIMITATION.—The Commandant may lease submerged lands and tidelands under paragraph (1) only if—

''(A) the lease is for cash exclusively;

''(B) the lease amount is equal to the fair market value of the use of the leased submerged lands or tidelands for the period during which such lands are leased, as determined by the Commandant;

''(C) the lease does not provide authority to or commit the Coast Guard to use or support any improvements to such submerged lands and tidelands, or obtain goods and services from the lessee; and

''(D) proceeds from the lease are deposited in the Coast Guard Housing Fund established under section 687.'';

(5) in the analysis for chapter 9, by striking the item relating to section 199 and inserting the following:

''199. Marine safety curriculum.'';

(6) in section 427(b)(2), by striking ''this chapter'' and inserting ''chapter 61 of title 10'';

(7) in the analysis for chapter 15 before the item relating to section 571, by striking the following:

''Sec.'';

(8) in section 581(5)(B), by striking ''$300,000,0000,'' and inserting ''$300,000,000,'';

(9) in section 637(c)(3), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by inserting ''it is'' before ''any'';

(10) in section 641(d)(3), by striking ''Guard, installation'' and inserting ''Guard installation'';

(11) in section 691(c)(3), by striking ''state'' and inserting ''State'';

(12) in the analysis for chapter 21—

(A) by striking the item relating to section 709 and inserting the following:

''709. Reserve student aviation pilots; Reserve aviation pilots; appointments in commissioned grade.'';

and

(B) by striking the item relating to section 740 and inserting the following:

''740. Failure of selection and removal from an active status.'';

(13) in section 742(c), by striking ''subsection'' and inserting ''subsections'';

(14) in section 821(b)(1), by striking ''Chapter 26'' and inserting ''Chapter 171''; and

(15) in section 823a(b)(1), by striking ''Chapter 26'' and inserting ''Chapter 171''.

SEC. 210. DISCONTINUANCE OF AN AID TO NAVIGATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall establish a process for the discontinuance of an aid to navigation (other than a seasonal or temporary aid) established, maintained, or operated by the Coast Guard.

(b) REQUIREMENT.—The process established under subsection (a) shall include procedures to notify the public of any discontinuance of an aid to navigation described in that subsection.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In establishing a process under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with and consider any recommendations of the Navigation Safety Advisory Council.

(d) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 30 days after establishing a process under subsection (a), the Secretary shall notify the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate of the process established.

SEC. 211. MISSION PERFORMANCE MEASURES.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate an assessment of the efficacy of the Coast Guard's Standard Operational Planning Process with respect to annual mission performance measures.

SEC. 212. COMMUNICATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary of Homeland Security determines that there are at least two communications systems described under paragraph (1)(B) and certified under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall establish and carry out a pilot program across not less than three components of the Department of Homeland Security to assess the effectiveness of a communications system that—

(1) provides for—

(A) multiagency collaboration and interoperability; and

(B) wide-area, secure, and peer-invitation-and-acceptance-based multimedia communications;

(2) is certified by the Department of Defense Joint Interoperability Test Center; and

(3) is composed of commercially available, off-the-shelf technology.

(b) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 6 months after the date on which the pilot program is completed, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate an assessment of the pilot program, including the impacts of the program with respect to interagency and Coast Guard response capabilities.

(c) STRATEGY.—The pilot program shall be consistent with the strategy required by the Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act (Public Law 114–29).

(d) TIMING.—The pilot program shall commence within 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act or within 60 days after the completion of the strategy required by the Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act (Public Law 114–29), whichever is later.

SEC. 213. COAST GUARD GRADUATE MARITIME OPERATIONS EDUCATION.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall establish an education program, for members and employees of the Coast Guard, that—

(1) offers a master's degree in maritime operations;

(2) is relevant to the professional development of such members and employees;

(3) provides resident and distant education options, including the ability to utilize both options; and

(4) to the greatest extent practicable, is conducted using existing academic programs at an accredited public academic institution that—

(A) is located near a significant number of Coast Guard, maritime, and other Department of Homeland Security law enforcement personnel; and

(B) has an ability to simulate operations normally conducted at a command center.

SEC. 214. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

(a) MULTIRATER ASSESSMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 11 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 428 the following:

"§ 429. Multirater assessment of certain personnel

''(a) MULTIRATER ASSESSMENT OF CERTAIN PERSONNEL.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Commencing not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall develop and implement a plan to conduct every two years a multirater assessment for each of the following:

''(A) Each flag officer of the Coast Guard.

''(B) Each member of the Senior Executive Service of the Coast Guard.

''(C) Each officer of the Coast Guard nominated for promotion to the grade of flag officer.

''(2) POST-ASSESSMENT ELEMENTS.—Following an assessment of an individual pursuant to paragraph (1), the individual shall be provided appropriate post-assessment counseling and leadership coaching.

''(b) MULTIRATER ASSESSMENT DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'multirater assessment' means a review that seeks opinion from members senior to the reviewee and the peers and subordinates of the reviewee.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item related to section 428 the following:

''429. Multirater assessment of certain personnel.''.

(b) TRAINING COURSE ON WORKINGS OF CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 60. Training course on workings of Congress

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015, the Commandant, in consultation with the Superintendent of the Coast Guard Academy and such other individuals and organizations as the Commandant considers appropriate, shall develop a training course on the workings of the Congress and offer that training course at least once each year.

''(b) COURSE SUBJECT MATTER.—The training course required by this section shall provide an overview and introduction to the Congress and the Federal legislative process, including—

''(1) the history and structure of the Congress and the committee systems of the House of Representatives and the Senate, including the functions and responsibilities of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

''(2) the documents produced by the Congress, including bills, resolutions, committee reports, and conference reports, and the purposes and functions of those documents;

''(3) the legislative processes and rules of the House of Representatives and the Senate, including similarities and differences between the two processes and rules, including—

''(A) the congressional budget process;

''(B) the congressional authorization and appropriation processes;

''(C) the Senate advice and consent process for Presidential nominees;

''(D) the Senate advice and consent process for treaty ratification;

''(4) the roles of Members of Congress and congressional staff in the legislative process; and

''(5) the concept and underlying purposes of congressional oversight within our governance framework of separation of powers.

''(c) LECTURERS AND PANELISTS.—

''(1) OUTSIDE EXPERTS.—The Commandant shall ensure that not less than 60 percent of the lecturers, panelists, and other individuals providing education and instruction as part of the training course required by this section are experts on the Congress and the Federal legislative process who are not employed by the executive branch of the Federal Government.

''(2) AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT PRO BONO SERVICES.—In satisfying the requirement under paragraph (1), the Commandant shall seek, and may accept, educational and instructional services of lecturers, panelists, and other individuals and organizations provided to the Coast Guard on a pro bono basis.

''(d) COMPLETION OF REQUIRED TRAINING.—

''(1) CURRENT FLAG OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.—A Coast Guard flag officer appointed or assigned to a billet in the National Capital Region on the date of the enactment of this section, and a Coast Guard Senior Executive Service employee employed in the National Capital Region on the date of the enactment of this section, shall complete a training course that meets the requirements of this section within 60 days after the date on which the Commandant completes the development of the training course.

''(2) NEW FLAG OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.—A Coast Guard flag officer who is newly appointed or assigned to a billet in the National Capital Region, and a Coast Guard Senior Executive Service employee who is newly employed in the National Capital Region, shall complete a training course that meets the requirements of this section not later than 60 days after reporting for duty.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

''60. Training course on workings of Congress.''.

(c) REPORT ON LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on Coast Guard leadership development.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report shall include the following:

(A) An assessment of the feasibility of—

(i) all officers (other than officers covered by section 429(a) of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this section) completing a multirater assessment;

(ii) all members (other than officers covered by such section) in command positions completing a multirater assessment;

(iii) all enlisted members in a supervisory position completing a multirater assessment; and

(iv) members completing periodic multirater assessments.

(B) Such recommendations as the Commandant considers appropriate for the implementation or expansion of a multirater assessment in the personnel development programs of the Coast Guard.

(C) An overview of each of the current leadership development courses of the Coast Guard, an assessment of the feasibility of the expansion of any such course, and a description of the resources, if any, required to expand such courses.

(D) An assessment on the state of leadership training in the Coast Guard, and recommendations on the implementation of a policy to prevent leadership that has adverse effects on subordinates, the organization, or mission performance, including—

(i) a description of methods that will be used by the Coast Guard to identify, monitor, and counsel individuals whose leadership may have adverse effects on subordinates, the organization, or mission performance;

(ii) the implementation of leadership recognition training to recognize such leadership in one's self and others;

(iii) the establishment of procedures for the administrative separation of leaders whose leadership may have adverse effects on subordinates, the organization, or mission performance; and

(iv) a description of the resources needed to implement this subsection.

SEC. 215. SENIOR ENLISTED MEMBER CONTINUATION BOARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 357 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (a) through (h) and subsection (j); and

(2) in subsection (i), by striking ''(i)''.

(b) CONFORMING AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) HEADING AMENDMENT.—The heading of such section is amended to read as follows:

"§ 357. Retirement of enlisted members: increase in retired pay"

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis at the beginning of chapter 11 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to such section and inserting the following:

''357. Retirement of enlisted members: increase in retired pay.''.

SEC. 216. COAST GUARD MEMBER PAY.

(a) ANNUAL AUDIT OF PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF MEMBERS UNDERGOING PERMANENT CHANGE OF STATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 13 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 519. Annual audit of pay and allowances of members undergoing permanent change of station

''The Commandant shall conduct each calendar year an audit of member pay and allowances for the members who transferred to new units during such calendar year. The audit for a calendar year shall be completed by the end of the calendar year.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

''519. Annual audit of pay and allowances of members undergoing permanent change of station.''.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on alternative methods for notifying members of the Coast Guard of their monthly earnings. The report shall include—

(1) an assessment of the feasibility of providing members a monthly notification of their earnings, categorized by pay and allowance type; and

(2) a description and assessment of mechanisms that may be used to provide members with notification of their earnings, categorized by pay and allowance type.

SEC. 217. TRANSFER OF FUNDS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE MEDICAL CARE.

(a) TRANSFER REQUIRED.—In lieu of the reimbursement required under section 1085 of title 10, United States Code, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall transfer to the Secretary of Defense an amount that represents the actuarial valuation of treatment or care—

(1) that the Department of Defense shall provide to members of the Coast Guard, former members of the Coast Guard, and dependents of such members and former members (other than former members and dependents of former members who are a Medicare-eligible beneficiary or for whom the payment for treatment or care is made from the Medicare-Eligible Retiree Health Care Fund) at facilities under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense or a military department; and

(2) for which a reimbursement would otherwise be made under section 1085.

(b) AMOUNT.—The amount transferred under subsection (a) shall be—

(1) in the case of treatment or care to be provided to members of the Coast Guard and their dependents, derived from amounts appropriated for the operating expenses of the Coast Guard;

(2) in the case of treatment or care to be provided former members of the Coast Guard and their dependents, derived from amounts appropriated for retired pay;

(3) determined under procedures established by the Secretary of Defense;

(4) transferred during the fiscal year in which treatment or care is provided; and

(5) subject to adjustment or reconciliation as the Secretaries determine appropriate during or promptly after such fiscal year in cases in which the amount transferred is determined excessive or insufficient based on the services actually provided.

(c) NO TRANSFER WHEN SERVICE IN NAVY.—No transfer shall be made under this section for any period during which the Coast Guard operates as a service in the Navy.

(d) RELATIONSHIP TO TRICARE.—This section shall not be construed to require a payment for, or the transfer of an amount that represents the value of, treatment or care provided under any TRICARE program.

SEC. 218. PARTICIPATION OF THE COAST GUARD ACADEMY IN FEDERAL, STATE, OR OTHER EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH GRANTS.

Section 196 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(a) IN GENERAL.—'' before the first sentence; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) QUALIFIED ORGANIZATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard may—

''(A) enter into a contract, cooperative agreement, lease, or licensing agreement with a qualified organization;

''(B) allow a qualified organization to use, at no cost, personal property of the Coast Guard; and

''(C) notwithstanding section 93, accept funds, supplies, and services from a qualified organization.

''(2) SOLE-SOURCE BASIS.—Notwithstanding chapter 65 of title 31 and chapter 137 of title 10, the Commandant may enter into a contract or cooperative agreement under paragraph (1)(A) on a sole-source basis.

''(3) MAINTAINING FAIRNESS, OBJECTIVITY, AND INTEGRITY.—The Commandant shall ensure that contributions under this subsection do not—

''(A) reflect unfavorably on the ability of the Coast Guard, any of its employees, or any member of the armed forces to carry out any responsibility or duty in a fair and objective manner; or

''(B) compromise the integrity or appearance of integrity of any program of the Coast Guard, or any individual involved in such a program.

''(4) LIMITATION.—For purposes of this subsection, employees or personnel of a qualified organization shall not be employees of the United States.

''(5) QUALIFIED ORGANIZATION DEFINED.—In this subsection the term 'qualified organization' means an organization—

''(A) described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code; and

''(B) established by the Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association solely for the purpose of supporting academic research and applying for and administering Federal, State, or other educational research grants on behalf of the Coast Guard Academy.''.

SEC. 219. NATIONAL COAST GUARD MUSEUM.

Section 98(b) of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''any appropriated Federal funds for'' and insert ''any funds appropriated to the Coast Guard on''; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''artifacts.'' and inserting ''artifacts, including the design, fabrication, and installation of exhibits or displays in which such artifacts are included.''.

SEC. 220. INVESTIGATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 11 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 430. Investigations of flag officers and Senior Executive Service employees

''In conducting an investigation into an allegation of misconduct by a flag officer or member of the Senior Executive Service serving in the Coast Guard, the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall—

''(1) conduct the investigation in a manner consistent with Department of Defense policies for such an investigation; and

''(2) consult with the Inspector General of the Department of Defense.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis at the beginning of such chapter is further amended by inserting after the item related to section 429 the following:

''430. Investigations of flag officers and Senior Executive Service employees.''.

SEC. 221. CLARIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY OF MEMBERS OF THE COAST GUARD FOR COMBAT-RELATED SPECIAL COMPENSATION.

(a) CONSIDERATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department is which the Coast Guard is operating shall issue procedures and criteria to use in determining whether the disability of a member of the Coast Guard is a combat-related disability for purposes of the eligibility of such member for combat-related special compensation under section 1413a of title 10, United States Code. Such procedures and criteria shall include the procedures and criteria prescribed by the Secretary of Defense pursuant to subsection (e)(2) of such section. Such procedures and criteria shall apply in determining whether the disability of a member of the Coast Guard is a combat-related disability for purposes of determining the eligibility of such member for combat-related special compensation under such section.

(2) DISABILITY FOR WHICH A DETERMINATION IS MADE.—For the purposes of this section, and in the case of a member of the Coast Guard, a disability under section 1413a(e)(2)(B) of title 10, United States Code, includes a disability incurred during aviation duty, diving duty, rescue swimmer or similar duty, and hazardous service duty onboard a small vessel (such as duty as a surfman)—

(A) in the performance of duties for which special or incentive pay was paid pursuant to section 301, 301a, 304, 307, 334, or 351 of title 37, United States Code;

(B) in the performance of duties related to a statutory mission of the Coast Guard under paragraph (1) or paragraph (2) of section 888(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 468(a)), including—

(i) law enforcement, including drug or migrant interdiction;

(ii) defense readiness; or

(iii) search and rescue; or

(C) while engaged in a training exercise for the performance of a duty described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

(b) APPLICABILITY OF PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA.—The procedures and criteria issued pursuant to subsection (a) shall apply to disabilities described in that subsection that are incurred on or after the effective date provided in section 636(a)(2) of the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107–314; 116 Stat. 2574; 10 U.S.C. 1413a note).

(c) REAPPLICATION FOR COMPENSATION.—Any member of the Coast Guard who was denied combat-related special compensation under section 1413a of title 10, United States Code, during the period beginning on the effective date specified in subsection (b) and ending on the date of the issuance of the procedures and criteria required by subsection (a) may reapply for combat-related special compensation under such section on the basis of such procedures and criteria in accordance with such procedures as the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall specify.

SEC. 222. LEAVE POLICIES FOR THE COAST GUARD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 11 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by inserting after section 430 the following:

''§ 431. Leave policies for the Coast Guard

''Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Secretary of the Navy promulgates a new rule, policy, or memorandum pursuant to section 704 of title 10, United States Code, with respect to leave associated with the birth or adoption of a child, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall promulgate a similar rule, policy, or memorandum that provides leave to officers and enlisted members of the Coast Guard that is equal in duration and compensation to that provided by the Secretary of the Navy.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis at the beginning of such chapter is further amended by inserting after the item related to section 430 the following:

''431. Leave policies for the Coast Guard.''.

TITLE III—SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION

SEC. 301. SURVIVAL CRAFT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3104 of title 46, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 3104. Survival craft

''(a) REQUIREMENT TO EQUIP.—The Secretary shall require that a passenger vessel be equipped with survival craft that ensures that no part of an individual is immersed in water, if—

''(1) such vessel is built or undergoes a major conversion after January 1, 2016; and

''(2) operates in cold waters as determined by the Secretary.

''(b) HIGHER STANDARD OF SAFETY.—The Secretary may revise part 117 or part 180 of title 46, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect before January 1, 2016, if such revision provides a

higher standard of safety than is provided by the regulations in effect on or before the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015.

''(c) INNOVATIVE AND NOVEL DESIGNS.—The Secretary may, in lieu of the requirements set out in part 117 or part 180 of title 46, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015, allow a passenger vessel to be equipped with a life-saving appliance or arrangement of an innovative or novel design that—

''(1) ensures no part of an individual is immersed in water; and

''(2) provides an equal or higher standard of safety than is provided by such requirements as in effect before such date of the enactment.

''(d) BUILT DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'built' has the meaning that term has under section 4503(e).''.

(b) REVIEW; REVISION OF REGULATIONS.—

(1) REVIEW.—Not later than December 31, 2016, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a review of—

(A) the number of casualties for individuals with disabilities, children, and the elderly as a result of immersion in water, reported to the Coast Guard over the preceding 30-year period, by vessel type and area of operation;

(B) the risks to individuals with disabilities, children, and the elderly as a result of immersion in water, by passenger vessel type and area of operation;

(C) the effect that carriage of survival craft that ensure that no part of an individual is immersed in water has on—

(i) passenger vessel safety, including stability and safe navigation;

(ii) improving the survivability of individuals, including individuals with disabilities, children, and the elderly; and

(iii) the costs, the incremental cost difference to vessel operators, and the cost effectiveness of requiring the carriage of such survival craft to address the risks to individuals with disabilities, children, and the elderly;

(D) the efficacy of alternative safety systems, devices, or measures in improving survivability of individuals with disabilities, children, and the elderly; and

(E) the number of small businesses and nonprofit vessel operators that would be affected by requiring the carriage of such survival craft on passenger vessels to address the risks to individuals with disabilities, children, and the elderly.

(2) SCOPE.—In conducting the review under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall include an examination of passenger vessel casualties that have occurred in the waters of other nations.

(3) UPDATES.—The Secretary shall update the review required under paragraph (1) every 5 years.

(4) REVISION.—Based on the review conducted under paragraph (1), including updates thereto, the Secretary shall revise regulations concerning the carriage of survival craft under section 3104(c) of title 46, United States Code.

(c) GAO STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall complete and submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report to determine any adverse or positive changes in public safety after the implementation of the amendments and requirements under this section and section 3104 of title 46, United States Code.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In completing the report under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall examine—

(A) the number of casualties, by vessel type and area of operation, as the result of immersion in water reported to the Coast Guard for each of the 10 most recent fiscal years for which such data are available;

(B) data for each fiscal year on—

(i) vessel safety, including stability and safe navigation; and

(ii) survivability of individuals, including individuals with disabilities, children, and the elderly;

(C) the efficacy of alternative safety systems, devices, or measures; and

(D) any available data on the costs of the amendments and requirements under this section and section 3104 of title 46, United States Code.

SEC. 302. VESSEL REPLACEMENT.

(a) LOANS AND GUARANTEES.—Chapter 537 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 53701—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (8) through (14) as paragraphs (9) through (15), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (7) the following:

''(8) HISTORICAL USES.—The term 'historical uses' includes—

''(A) refurbishing, repairing, rebuilding, or replacing equipment on a fishing vessel, without materially increasing harvesting capacity;

''(B) purchasing a used fishing vessel;

''(C) purchasing, constructing, expanding, or reconditioning a fishery facility;

''(D) refinancing existing debt;

''(E) reducing fishing capacity; and

''(F) making upgrades to a fishing vessel, including upgrades in technology, gear, or equipment, that improve—

''(i) collection and reporting of fishery-dependent data;

''(ii) bycatch reduction or avoidance;

''(iii) gear selectivity;

''(iv) adverse impacts caused by fishing gear; or

''(v) safety.''; and

(2) in section 53702(b), by adding at the end the following:

''(3) MINIMUM OBLIGATIONS AVAILABLE FOR HISTORIC USES.—Of the direct loan obligations issued by the Secretary under this chapter, the Secretary shall make a minimum of $59,000,000 available each fiscal year for historic uses.

''(4) USE OF OBLIGATIONS IN LIMITED ACCESS FISHERIES.—In addition to the other eligible purposes and uses of direct loan obligations provided for in this chapter, the Secretary may issue direct loan obligations for the purpose of—

''(A) financing the construction or reconstruction of a fishing vessel in a fishery managed under a limited access system; or

''(B) financing the purchase of harvesting rights in a fishery that is federally managed under a limited access system.''.

(b) LIMITATION ON APPLICATION TO CERTAIN FISHING VESSELS OF PROHIBITION UNDER VESSEL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM.—Section 302(b)(2) of the Fisheries Financing Act (title III of Public Law 104–297; 46 U.S.C. 53706 note) is amended—

(1) in the second sentence—

(A) by striking ''or in'' and inserting '', in''; and

(B) by inserting before the period the following: '', in fisheries that are under the jurisdiction of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and managed under a fishery management plan issued under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), or in the Pacific whiting fishery that is under the jurisdiction of the Pacific Fishery Management Council and managed under a fishery management plan issued under that Act''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following: ''Any fishing vessel operated in fisheries under the jurisdiction of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and managed under a fishery management plan issued under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), or in the Pacific whiting fishery under the jurisdiction of the Pacific Fishery Management Council and managed under a fishery management plan issued under that Act, and that is replaced by a vessel that is constructed or rebuilt with a loan or loan guarantee provided by the Federal Government may not be used to harvest fish in any fishery under the jurisdiction of any regional fishery management council, other than a fishery under the jurisdiction of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council or the Pacific Fishery Management Council.''.

SEC. 303. MODEL YEARS FOR RECREATIONAL VESSELS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4302 of title 46, United States Code is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e)(1) Under this section, a model year for recreational vessels and associated equipment shall, except as provided in paragraph (2)—

''(A) begin on June 1 of a year and end on July 31 of the following year; and

''(B) be designated by the year in which it ends.

''(2) Upon the request of a recreational vessel manufacturer to which this chapter applies, the Secretary may alter a model year for a model of recreational vessel of the manufacturer and associated equipment, by no more than 6 months from the model year described in paragraph (1).''.

(b) APPLICATION.—This section shall only apply with respect to recreational vessels and associated equipment constructed or manufactured, respectively, on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 304. MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIAL EXPIRATION HARMONIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (c) and not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall establish a process to harmonize the expiration dates of merchant mariner credentials, mariner medical certificates, and radar observer endorsements for individuals applying to the Secretary for a new merchant mariner credential or for renewal of an existing merchant mariner credential.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall ensure that the process established under subsection (a)—

(1) does not require an individual to renew a merchant mariner credential earlier than the date on which the individual's current credential expires; and

(2) results in harmonization of expiration dates for merchant mariner credentials, mariner medical certificates, and radar observer endorsements for all individuals by not later than 6 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) EXCEPTION.—The process established under subsection (a) does not apply to individuals—

(1) holding a merchant mariner credential with—

(A) an active Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping endorsement; or

(B) Federal first-class pilot endorsement; or

(2) who have been issued a time-restricted medical certificate.

SEC. 305. SAFETY ZONES FOR PERMITTED MARINE EVENTS.

Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall establish and implement a process to—

(1) account for the number of safety zones established for permitted marine events;

(2) differentiate whether the event sponsor who requested a permit for such an event is—

(A) an individual;

(B) an organization; or

(C) a government entity; and

(3) account for Coast Guard resources utilized to enforce safety zones established for permitted marine events, including for—

(A) the number of Coast Guard or Coast Guard Auxiliary vessels used; and

(B) the number of Coast Guard or Coast Guard Auxiliary patrol hours required.

SEC. 306. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

(a) TITLE 46.—Title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 103, by striking ''(33 U.S.C. 151).'' and inserting ''(33 U.S.C. 151(b)).'';

(2) in section 2118—

(A) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''title,'' and inserting ''subtitle,''; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking ''title'' and inserting ''subtitle'';

(3) in the analysis for chapter 35—

(A) by adding a period at the end of the item relating to section 3507; and

(B) by adding a period at the end of the item relating to section 3508;

(4) in section 3715(a)(2), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(5) in section 4506, by striking ''(a)'';

(6) in section 8103(b)(1)(A)(iii), by striking ''Academy.'' and inserting ''Academy; and'';

(7) in section 11113(c)(1)(A)(i), by striking ''under this Act'';

(8) in the analysis for chapter 701—

(A) by adding a period at the end of the item relating to section 70107A;

(B) in the item relating to section 70112, by striking ''security advisory committees.'' and inserting ''Security Advisory Committees.''; and

(C) in the item relating to section 70122, by striking ''watch program.'' and inserting ''Watch Program.'';

(9) in section 70105(c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(B)(xv)—

(i) by striking ''18, popularly'' and inserting ''18 (popularly''; and

(ii) by striking ''Act'' and inserting ''Act)''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''(D) paragraph'' and inserting ''(D) of paragraph'';

(10) in section 70107—

(A) in subsection (b)(2), by striking ''5121(j)(8)),'' and inserting ''5196(j)(8)),''; and

(B) in subsection (m)(3)(C)(iii), by striking ''that is'' and inserting ''that the applicant'';

(11) in section 70122, in the section heading, by striking ''**watch program**'' and inserting ''**Watch Program**''; and

(12) in the analysis for chapter 705, by adding a period at the end of the item relating to section 70508.

(b) GENERAL BRIDGE STATUTES.—

(1) ACT OF MARCH 3, 1899.—The Act of March 3, 1899, popularly known as the Rivers and Harbors Appropriations Act of 1899, is amended—

(A) in section 9 (33 U.S.C. 401), by striking ''Secretary of Transportation'' each place it appears and inserting ''Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating''; and

(B) in section 18 (33 U.S.C. 502), by striking ''Secretary of Transportation'' each place it appears and inserting ''Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating''.

(2) ACT OF MARCH 23, 1906.—The Act of March 23, 1906, popularly known as the Bridge Act of 1906, is amended—

(A) in the first section (33 U.S.C. 491), by striking ''Secretary of Transportation'' and inserting ''Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating'';

(B) in section 4 (33 U.S.C. 494), by striking ''Secretary of Homeland Security'' each place it appears and inserting ''Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating''; and

(C) in section 5 (33 U.S.C. 495), by striking ''Secretary of Transportation'' each place it appears and inserting ''Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating''.

(3) ACT OF AUGUST 18, 1894.—Section 5 of the Act entitled ''An Act making appropriations for the construction, repair, and preservation of certain public works on rivers and harbors, and for other purposes'', approved August 18, 1894 (33 U.S.C. 499) is amended by striking ''Secretary of Transportation'' each place it appears and inserting ''Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating''.

(4) ACT OF JUNE 21, 1940.—The Act of June 21, 1940, popularly known as the Truman-Hobbs Act, is amended—

(A) in section 1 (33 U.S.C. 511), by striking ''Secretary of Transportation'' and inserting ''Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating'';

(B) in section 4 (33 U.S.C. 514), by striking ''Secretary of Transportation'' and inserting ''Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating'';

(C) in section 7 (33 U.S.C. 517), by striking ''Secretary of Transportation'' each place it appears and inserting ''Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating''; and

(D) in section 13 (33 U.S.C. 523), by striking ''Secretary of Transportation'' and inserting ''Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating''.

(5) GENERAL BRIDGE ACT OF 1946.—The General Bridge Act of 1946 is amended—

(A) in section 502(b) (33 U.S.C. 525(b)), by striking ''Secretary of Transportation'' and inserting ''Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating''; and

(B) in section 510 (33 U.S.C. 533), by striking ''Secretary of Transportation'' each place it appears and inserting ''Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating''.

(6) INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE ACT OF 1972.—The International Bridge Act of 1972 is amended—

(A) in section 5 (33 U.S.C. 535c), by striking ''Secretary of Transportation'' and inserting ''Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating'';

(B) in section 8 (33 U.S.C. 535e), by striking ''Secretary of Transportation'' each place it appears and inserting ''Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating''; and

(C) by striking section 11 (33 U.S.C. 535h).

SEC. 307. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS OF MARINE CASUALTY REPORTING.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall notify the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate of the actions the Commandant will take to implement recommendations on improvements to the Coast Guard's marine casualty reporting requirements and procedures included in—

(1) the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General report entitled ''Marine Accident Reporting, Investigations, and Enforcement in the United States Coast Guard'', released on May 23, 2013; and

(2) the Towing Safety Advisory Committee report entitled ''Recommendations for Improvement of Marine Casualty Reporting'', released on March 26, 2015.

SEC. 308. RECREATIONAL VESSEL ENGINE WEIGHTS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall issue regulations amending table 4 to subpart H of part 183 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations (relating to Weights (Pounds) of Outboard Motor and Related Equipment for Various Boat Horsepower Ratings) as appropriate to reflect ''Standard 30–Outboard Engine and Related Equipment Weights'' published by the American Boat and Yacht Council, as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 309. MERCHANT MARINER MEDICAL CERTIFICATION REFORM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 75 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 7509. Medical certification by trusted agents

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law and pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary, a trusted agent may issue a medical certificate to an individual who—

''(1) must hold such certificate to qualify for a license, certificate of registry, or merchant mariner's document, or endorsement thereto under this part; and

''(2) is qualified as to sight, hearing, and physical condition to perform the duties of such license, certificate, document, or endorsement, as determined by the trusted agent.

''(b) PROCESS FOR ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES BY SECRETARY.—A final rule implementing this section shall include a process for—

''(1) the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating to issue medical certificates to mariners who submit applications for such certificates to the Secretary; and

''(2) a trusted agent to defer to the Secretary the issuance of a medical certificate.

''(c) TRUSTED AGENT DEFINED.—In this section the term 'trusted agent' means a medical practitioner certified by the Secretary to perform physical examinations of an individual for purposes of a license, certificate of registry, or merchant mariner's document under this part.''.

(b) DEADLINE.—Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall issue a final rule implementing section 7509 of title 46, United States Code, as added by this section.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

''7509. Medical certification by trusted agents.''.

SEC. 310. ATLANTIC COAST PORT ACCESS ROUTE STUDY.

(a) ATLANTIC COAST PORT ACCESS ROUTE STUDY.—Not later than April 1, 2016, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall conclude the Atlantic Coast Port Access Route Study and submit the results of such study to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(b) NANTUCKET SOUND.—Not later than December 1, 2016, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall complete and submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a port access route study of Nantucket Sound using the standards and methodology of the Atlantic Coast Port Access Route Study, to determine whether the Coast Guard should revise existing regulations to improve navigation safety in Nantucket Sound due to factors such as increased vessel traffic, changing vessel traffic patterns, weather conditions, or navigational difficulty in the vicinity.

SEC. 311. CERTIFICATES OF DOCUMENTATION FOR RECREATIONAL VESSELS.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall issue regulations that—

(1) make certificates of documentation for recreational vessels effective for 5 years; and

(2) require the owner of such a vessel—

(A) to notify the Coast Guard of each change in the information on which the issuance of the certificate of documentation is based, that occurs before the expiration of the certificate; and

(B) apply for a new certificate of documentation for such a vessel if there is any such change.

SEC. 312. PROGRAM GUIDELINES.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall—

(1) develop guidelines to implement the program authorized under section 304(a) of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–241), including specific actions to ensure the future availability of able and credentialed United States licensed and unlicensed seafarers including—

(A) incentives to encourage partnership agreements with operators of foreign-flag vessels that carry liquified natural gas, that provide no less than one training billet per vessel for United States merchant mariners in order to meet minimum mandatory sea service requirements;

(B) development of appropriate training curricula for use by public and private maritime training institutions to meet all United States merchant mariner license, certification, and document laws and requirements under the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978; and

(C) steps to promote greater outreach and awareness of additional job opportunities for sea service veterans of the United States Armed Forces; and

(2) submit such guidelines to the Committee Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 313. REPEALS.

(a) REPEALS, MERCHANT MARINE ACT, 1936.—Sections 601 through 606, 608 through 611, 613 through 616, 802, and 809 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936 (46 U.S.C. 53101 note) are repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Chapter 575 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 57501, by striking ''titles V and VI'' and inserting ''title V''; and

(2) in section 57531(a), by striking ''titles V and VI'' and inserting ''title V''.

(c) TRANSFER FROM MERCHANT MARINE ACT, 1936.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 801 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936 (46 U.S.C. 53101 note) is—

(A) redesignated as section 57522 of title 46, United States Code, and transferred to appear after section 57521 of such title; and

(B) as so redesignated and transferred, is amended—

(i) by striking so much as precedes the first sentence and inserting the following:

''§ 57522. Books and records, balance sheets, and inspection and auditing'';

(ii) by striking ''the provision of title VI or VII of this Act'' and inserting ''this chapter''; and

(iii) by striking '': Provided, That'' and all that follows through ''Commission''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 575, of title 46, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 57521 the following:

''57522. Books and records, balance sheets, and inspection and auditing.''.

(d) REPEALS, TITLE 46, U.S.C.—Section 8103 of title 46, United States Code, is amended in subsections (c) and (d) by striking ''or operating'' each place it appears.

SEC. 314. MARITIME DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT.

(a) PROHIBITIONS.—Section 70503(a) of title 46, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(a) PROHIBITIONS.—While on board a covered vessel, an individual may not knowingly or intentionally—

''(1) manufacture or distribute, or possess with intent to manufacture or distribute, a controlled substance;

''(2) destroy (including jettisoning any item or scuttling, burning, or hastily cleaning a vessel), or attempt or conspire to destroy, property that is subject to forfeiture under section 511(a) of the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970 (21 U.S.C. 881(a)); or

''(3) conceal, or attempt or conspire to conceal, more than $100,000 in currency or other monetary instruments on the person of such individual or in any conveyance, article of luggage, merchandise, or other container, or compartment of or aboard the covered vessel if that vessel is outfitted for smuggling.''.

(b) COVERED VESSEL DEFINED.—Section 70503 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) COVERED VESSEL DEFINED.—In this section the term 'covered vessel' means—

''(1) a vessel of the United States or a vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States; or

''(2) any other vessel if the individual is a citizen of the United States or a resident alien of the United States.''.

(c) PENALTIES.—Section 70506 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''A person violating section 70503'' and inserting ''A person violating paragraph (1) of section 70503(a)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(d) PENALTY.—A person violating paragraph (2) or (3) of section 70503(a) shall be fined in accordance with section 3571 of title 18, imprisoned not more than 15 years, or both.''.

(d) SEIZURE AND FORFEITURE.—Section 70507(a) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''section 70503'' and inserting ''section 70503 or 70508''.

(e) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The heading of section 70503 of title 46, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 70503. Prohibited acts''

(2) The analysis for chapter 705 of title 46, United States Code, is further amended by striking the item relating to section 70503 and inserting the following:

''70503. Prohibited acts.''.

SEC. 315. EXAMINATIONS FOR MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIALS.

(a) DISCLOSURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 75 of title 46, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 7510. Examinations for merchant mariner credentials

''(a) DISCLOSURE NOT REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary is not required to disclose to the public—

''(1) a question from any examination for a merchant mariner credential;

''(2) the answer to such a question, including any correct or incorrect answer that may be presented with such question; and

''(3) any quality or characteristic of such a question, including—

''(A) the manner in which such question has been, is, or may be selected for an examination;

''(B) the frequency of such selection; and

''(C) the frequency that an examinee correctly or incorrectly answered such question.

''(b) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN QUESTIONS.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Secretary may, for the purpose of preparation by the general public for examinations required for merchant mariner credentials, release an examination question and answer that the Secretary has retired or is not presently on or part of an examination, or that the Secretary determines is appropriate for release.

''(c) EXAM REVIEW.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015, and once every two years thereafter, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall commission a working group to review new questions for inclusion in examinations required for merchant mariner credentials, composed of—

''(A) 1 subject matter expert from the Coast Guard;

''(B) representatives from training facilities and the maritime industry, of whom—

''(i) one-half shall be representatives from approved training facilities; and

''(ii) one-half shall be representatives from the appropriate maritime industry;

''(C) at least 1 representative from the Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee;

''(D) at least 2 representatives from the State maritime academies, of whom one shall be a representative from the deck training track and one shall be a representative of the engine license track;

''(E) representatives from other Coast Guard Federal advisory committees, as appropriate, for the industry segment associated with the subject examinations;

''(F) at least 1 subject matter expert from the Maritime Administration; and

''(G) at least 1 human performance technology representative.

''(2) INCLUSION OF PERSONS KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT EXAMINATION TYPE.—The working group shall include representatives knowledgeable about the examination type under review.

''(3) LIMITATION.—The requirement to convene a working group under paragraph (1) does not apply unless there are new examination questions to review.

''(4) BASELINE REVIEW.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Within 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015, the Secretary shall convene the working group to complete a baseline review of the Coast Guard's Merchant Mariner Credentialing Examination, including review of—

''(i) the accuracy of examination questions;

''(ii) the accuracy and availability of examination references;

''(iii) the length of merchant mariner examinations; and

''(iv) the use of standard technologies in administering, scoring, and analyzing the examinations.

''(B) PROGRESS REPORT.—The Coast Guard shall provide a progress report to the appropriate congressional committees on the review under this paragraph.

''(5) FULL MEMBERSHIP NOT REQUIRED.—The Coast Guard may convene the working group without all members present if any non-Coast-Guard representative is present.

''(6) NONDISCLOSURE AGREEMENT.—The Secretary shall require all members of the working group to sign a nondisclosure agreement with the Secretary.

''(7) TREATMENT OF MEMBERS AS FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A member of the working group who is not a Federal Government employee shall not be considered a Federal employee in the service or the employment of the Federal Government, except that such a member shall be considered a special government employee, as defined in section 202(a) of title 18 for purposes of sections 203, 205, 207, 208, and 209 of such title and shall be subject to any administrative standards of conduct applicable to an employee of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating.

''(8) FORMAL EXAM REVIEW.—The Secretary shall ensure that the Coast Guard Performance Technology Center—

''(A) prioritizes the review of examinations required for merchant mariner credentials; and

''(B) not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015, completes a formal review, including an appropriate analysis, of the topics and testing methodology employed by the National Maritime Center for merchant seamen licensing.

''(9) FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App) shall not apply to any working group created under this section to review the Coast Guard's merchant mariner credentialing examinations.

''(d) MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIAL DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'merchant mariner credential' means a merchant seaman license, certificate, or document that the Secretary is authorized to issue pursuant to this title.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''7510. Examinations for merchant mariner credentials.''.

(b) EXAMINATIONS FOR MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 71 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 7116. Examinations for merchant mariner credentials

''(a) REQUIREMENT FOR SAMPLE EXAMS.—The Secretary shall develop a sample merchant mariner credential examination and outline of merchant mariner examination topics on an annual basis.

''(b) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Each sample examination and outline of topics developed under subsection (a) shall be readily available to the public.

''(c) MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIAL DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'merchant mariner credential' has the meaning that term has in section 7510.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

''7116. Examinations for merchant mariner credentials.''.

(c) DISCLOSURE TO CONGRESS.—Nothing in this section may be construed to authorize the withholding of information from an appropriate inspector general, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, or the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 316. HIGHER VOLUME PORT AREA REGULATORY DEFINITION CHANGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 710 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–281; 124 Stat. 2986) is amended to read as follows:

''(a) HIGHER VOLUME PORTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the requirements of subparts D, F, and G of part 155 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, that apply to the higher volume port area for the Strait of Juan de Fuca at Port Angeles, Washington (including any water area within 50 nautical miles seaward), to and including Puget Sound, shall apply, in the same manner, and to the same extent, to the Strait of Juan de Fuca at Cape Flattery, Washington (including any water area within 50 nautical miles seaward), to and including Puget Sound.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended by striking ''the modification of the higher volume port area definition required by subsection (a).'' and inserting ''higher volume port requirements made applicable under subsection (a).''.

SEC. 317. RECOGNITION OF PORT SECURITY ASSESSMENTS CONDUCTED BY OTHER ENTITIES.

Section 70108 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) RECOGNITION OF ASSESSMENT CONDUCTED BY OTHER ENTITIES.—

''(1) CERTIFICATION AND TREATMENT OF ASSESSMENTS.—For the purposes of this section and section 70109, the Secretary may treat an assessment that a foreign government (including, for the purposes of this subsection, an entity of or operating under the auspices of the European Union) or international organization has conducted as an assessment that the Secretary has conducted for the purposes of subsection (a), provided that the Secretary certifies that the foreign government or international organization has—

''(A) conducted the assessment in accordance with subsection (b); and

''(B) provided the Secretary with sufficient information pertaining to its assessment (including, but not limited to, information on the outcome of the assessment).

''(2) AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT.—For the purposes of this section and section 70109, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, may enter into an agreement with a foreign government (including, for the purposes of this subsection, an entity of or operating under the auspices of the European Union) or international organization, under which parties to the agreement—

''(A) conduct an assessment, required under subsection (a);

''(B) share information pertaining to such assessment (including, but not limited to, information on the outcome of the assessment); or

''(C) both.

''(3) LIMITATIONS.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to—

''(A) require the Secretary to recognize an assessment that a foreign government or an international organization has conducted; or

''(B) limit the discretion or ability of the Secretary to conduct an assessment under this section.

''(4) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days before entering into an agreement or arrangement with a foreign government under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall notify the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate of the proposed terms of such agreement or arrangement.''.

SEC. 318. FISHING VESSEL AND FISH TENDER VESSEL CERTIFICATION.

(a) ALTERNATIVE SAFETY COMPLIANCE PROGRAMS.—Section 4503 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''this section'' and inserting ''this subsection'';

(2) in subsection (b), by striking ''This section'' and inserting ''Except as provided in subsection (d), subsection (a)'';

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking ''This section'' and inserting ''(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), subsection (a)''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) Subsection (a) does not apply to a fishing vessel or fish tender vessel to which section 4502(b) of this title applies, if the vessel—

''(A) is at least 50 feet overall in length, and not more than 79 feet overall in length as listed on the vessel's certificate of documentation or certificate of number; and

''(B)(i) is built after the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015; and

''(ii) complies with—

''(I) the requirements described in subsection (e); or

''(II) the alternative requirements established by the Secretary under subsection (f).''; and

(4) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (g), and inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) The requirements referred to in subsection (c)(2)(B)(ii)(I) are the following:

''(1) The vessel is designed by an individual licensed by a State as a naval architect or marine engineer, and the design incorporates standards equivalent to those prescribed by a classification society to which the Secretary has delegated authority under section 3316 or another qualified organization approved by the Secretary for purposes of this paragraph.

''(2) Construction of the vessel is overseen and certified as being in accordance with its design by a marine surveyor of an organization accepted by the Secretary.

''(3) The vessel—

''(A) completes a stability test performed by a qualified individual;

''(B) has written stability and loading instructions from a qualified individual that are provided to the owner or operator; and

''(C) has an assigned loading mark.

''(4) The vessel is not substantially altered without the review and approval of an individual licensed by a State as a naval architect or marine engineer before the beginning of such substantial alteration.

''(5) The vessel undergoes a condition survey at least twice in 5 years, not to exceed 3 years between surveys, to the satisfaction of a marine surveyor of an organization accepted by the Secretary.

''(6) The vessel undergoes an out-of-water survey at least once every 5 years to the satisfaction of a certified marine surveyor of an organization accepted by the Secretary.

''(7) Once every 5 years and at the time of a substantial alteration to such vessel, compliance of the vessel with the requirements of paragraph (3) is reviewed and updated as necessary.

''(8) For the life of the vessel, the owner of the vessel maintains records to demonstrate compliance with this subsection and makes such records readily available for inspection by an official authorized to enforce this chapter.

''(f)(1) Not later than 10 years after the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that provides an analysis of the adequacy of the requirements under subsection (e) in maintaining the safety of the fishing vessels and fish tender vessels which are described in subsection (c)(2) and which comply with the requirements of subsection (e).

''(2) If the report required under this subsection includes a determination that the safety requirements under subsection (e) are not adequate or that additional safety measures are necessary, that the Secretary may establish an alternative safety compliance program for fishing vessels or fish tender vessels (or both) which are described in subsection (c)(2) and which comply with the requirements of subsection (e).

''(3) The alternative safety compliance program established under this subsection shall include requirements for—

''(A) vessel construction;

''(B) a vessel stability test;

''(C) vessel stability and loading instructions;

''(D) an assigned vessel loading mark;

''(E) a vessel condition survey at least twice in 5 years, not to exceed 3 years between surveys;

''(F) an out-of-water vessel survey at least once every 5 years;

''(G) maintenance of records to demonstrate compliance with the program, and the availability of such records for inspection; and

''(H) such other aspects of vessel safety as the Secretary considers appropriate.''.

(b) GAO REPORT ON COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSEL SAFETY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on commercial fishing vessel safety. The report shall include—

(A) national and regional trends that can be identified with respect to rates of marine casualties, human injuries, and deaths aboard or involving fishing vessels greater than 79 feet in length that operate beyond the 3-nautical-mile demarcation line;

(B) a comparison of United States regulations for classification of fishing vessels to those established by other countries, including the vessel length at which such regulations apply;

(C) the additional costs imposed on vessel owners as a result of the requirement in section

4503(a) of title 46, United States Code, and how the those costs vary in relation to vessel size and from region to region;

(D) savings that result from the application of the requirement in section 4503(a) of title 46, United States Code, including reductions in insurance rates or reduction in the number of fishing vessels or fish tender vessels lost to major safety casualties, nationally and regionally;

(E) a national and regional comparison of the additional costs and safety benefits associated with fishing vessels or fish tender vessels that are built and maintained to class through a classification society to the additional costs and safety benefits associated with fishing vessels or fish tender vessels that are built to standards equivalent to classification society construction standards and maintained to standards equivalent to classification society standards with verification by independent surveyors; and

(F) the impact on the cost of production and availability of qualified shipyards, nationally and regionally, resulting from the application of the requirement in section 4503(a) of title 46, United States Code.

(2) CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.—In preparing the report under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall—

(A) consult with owners and operators of fishing vessels or fish tender vessels, classification societies, shipyards, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, the National Transportation Safety Board, the Coast Guard, academics, naval architects, and marine safety nongovernmental organizations; and

(B) obtain relevant data from the Coast Guard including data collected from enforcement actions, boardings, investigations of marine casualties, and serious marine incidents.

(3) TREATMENT OF DATA.—In preparing the report under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall—

(A) disaggregate data regionally for each of the regions managed by the regional fishery management councils established under section 302 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852), the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission; and

(B) include qualitative data on the types of fishing vessels or fish tender vessels included in the report.

SEC. 319. INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON OIL POLLUTION RESEARCH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7001(a)(3) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2761(a)(3)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''Minerals Management Service'' and inserting ''Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management,''; and

(2) by inserting ''the United States Arctic Research Commission,'' after ''National Aeronautics and Space Administration,''.

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—Section 7001 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2761) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''Department of Transportation'' and inserting ''department in which the Coast Guard is operating''; and

(2) in subsection (c)(8)(A), by striking ''(1989)'' and inserting ''(2010)''.

SEC. 320. INTERNATIONAL PORT AND FACILITY INSPECTION COORDINATION.

Section 825(a) of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 (6 U.S.C. 945 note; Public Law 111–281) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(1) by striking ''the department in which the Coast Guard is operating'' and inserting ''Homeland Security''; and

(2) by striking ''they are integrated and conducted by the Coast Guard'' and inserting ''the assessments are coordinated between the Coast Guard and Customs and Border Protection''.

TITLE IV—FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

SEC. 401. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 308. Authorization of appropriations

''There is authorized to be appropriated to the Federal Maritime Commission $24,700,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017 for the activities of the Commission authorized under this chapter and subtitle IV.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 3 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''308. Authorization of appropriations.''.

SEC. 402. DUTIES OF THE CHAIRMAN.

Section 301(c)(3)(A) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in clause (ii) by striking ''units, but only after consultation with the other Commissioners;'' and inserting ''units (with such appointments subject to the approval of the Commission);'';

(2) in clause (iv) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(3) in clause (v) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(vi) prepare and submit to the President and the Congress requests for appropriations for the Commission (with such requests subject to the approval of the Commission).''.

SEC. 403. PROHIBITION ON AWARDS.

Section 307 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''The Federal Maritime Commission'' and inserting the following:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Maritime Commission''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Federal Maritime Commission may not expend any funds appropriated or otherwise made available to it to a non-Federal entity to issue an award, prize, commendation, or other honor that is not related to the purposes set forth in section 40101.''.

TITLE V—CONVEYANCES

Subtitle A—Miscellaneous Conveyances

SEC. 501. CONVEYANCE OF COAST GUARD PROPERTY IN POINT REYES STATION, CALIFORNIA.

(a) CONVEYANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard shall convey to the County of Marin, California all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the covered property—

(A) for fair market value, as provided in paragraph (2);

(B) subject to the conditions required by this section; and

(C) subject to any other term or condition that the Commandant considers appropriate and reasonable to protect the interests of the United States.

(2) FAIR MARKET VALUE.—The fair market value of the covered property shall be—

(A) determined by a real estate appraiser who has been selected by the County and is licensed to practice in California; and

(B) approved by the Commandant.

(3) PROCEEDS.—The Commandant shall deposit the proceeds from a conveyance under paragraph (1) in the Coast Guard Housing Fund established by section 687 of title 14, United States Code.

(b) CONDITION OF CONVEYANCE.—As a condition of any conveyance of the covered property under this section, the Commandant shall require that all right, title, and interest in and to the covered property shall revert to the United States if the covered property or any part thereof ceases to be used for affordable housing, as defined by the County and the Commandant at the time of conveyance, or to provide a public benefit approved by the County.

(c) SURVEY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the covered property shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Commandant.

(d) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to affect or limit the application of or obligation to comply with any environmental law, including section 120(h) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9620(h)).

(e) COVERED PROPERTY DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''covered property'' means the approximately 32 acres of real property (including all improvements located on the property) that are—

(1) located in Point Reyes Station in the County of Marin, California;

(2) under the administrative control of the Coast Guard; and

(3) described as ''Parcel A, Tract 1'', ''Parcel B, Tract 2'', ''Parcel C'', and ''Parcel D'' in the Declaration of Taking (Civil No. C 71–1245 SC) filed June 28, 1971, in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California.

(f) EXPIRATION.—The authority to convey the covered property under this section shall expire on the date that is four years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 502. CONVEYANCE OF COAST GUARD PROPERTY IN TOK, ALASKA.

(a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard may convey to the Tanana Chiefs' Conference all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the covered property, upon payment to the United States of the fair market value of the covered property.

(b) SURVEY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the covered property shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Commandant.

(c) FAIR MARKET VALUE.—The fair market value of the covered property shall be—

(1) determined by appraisal; and

(2) subject to the approval of the Commandant.

(d) COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—The responsibility for all reasonable and necessary costs, including real estate transaction and environmental documentation costs, associated with a conveyance under this section shall be determined by the Commandant and the purchaser.

(e) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Commandant may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with a conveyance under this section as the Commandant considers appropriate and reasonable to protect the interests of the United States.

(f) DEPOSIT OF PROCEEDS.—Any proceeds received by the United States from a conveyance under this section shall be deposited in the Coast Guard Housing Fund established under section 687 of title 14, United States Code.

(g) COVERED PROPERTY DEFINED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term ''covered property'' means the approximately 3.25 acres of real property (including all improvements located on the property) that are—

(A) located in Tok, Alaska;

(B) under the administrative control of the Coast Guard; and

(C) described in paragraph (2).

(2) DESCRIPTION.—The property described in this paragraph is the following:

(A) Lots 11, 12 and 13, block ''G'', Second Addition to Hartsell Subdivision, Section 20, Township 18 North, Range 13 East, Copper River Meridian, Alaska as appears by Plat No. 72–39 filed in the Office of the Recorder for the Fairbanks Recording District of Alaska, bearing seal dated 25 September 1972, all containing approximately 1.25 acres and commonly known as 2–PLEX – Jackie Circle, Units A and B.

(B) Beginning at a point being the SE corner of the SE ¼ of the SE ¼ Section 24, Township 18 North, Range 12 East, Copper River Meridian, Alaska; thence running westerly along the south line of said SE ¼ of the NE ¼ 260 feet; thence northerly parallel to the east line of said SE ¼ of the NE ¼ 335 feet; thence easterly parallel to the south line 260 feet; then south 335 feet along the east boundary of Section 24 to the point of beginning; all containing approximately 2.0 acres and commonly known as 4–PLEX – West ''C'' and Willow, Units A, B, C and D.

(h) EXPIRATION.—The authority to convey the covered property under this section shall expire on the date that is 4 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Subtitle B—Pribilof Islands

SEC. 521. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Pribilof Island Transition Completion Act of 2015''.

SEC. 522. TRANSFER AND DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY.

(a) TRANSFER.—To further accomplish the settlement of land claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), the Secretary of Commerce shall, subject to paragraph (2), and notwithstanding section 105(a) of the Pribilof Islands Transition Act (16 U.S.C. 1161 note; Public Law 106–562), convey all right, title, and interest in the following property to the Alaska native village corporation for St. Paul Island:

(1) Lots 4, 5, and 6A, Block 18, Tract A, U.S. Survey 4943, Alaska, the plat of which was Officially Filed on January 20, 2004, aggregating 13,006 square feet (0.30 acres).

(2) On the termination of the license described in subsection (b)(3), T. 35 S., R. 131 W., Seward Meridian, Alaska, Tract 43, the plat of which was Officially Filed on May 14, 1986, containing 84.88 acres.

(b) FEDERAL USE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may operate, maintain, keep, locate, inspect, repair, and replace any Federal aid to navigation located on the property described in subsection (a) as long as the aid is needed for navigational purposes.

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary may enter the property, at any time for as long as the aid is needed for navigational purposes, without notice to the extent that it is not practicable to provide advance notice.

(3) LICENSE.—The Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating may maintain a license in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act with respect to the real property and improvements under subsection (a) until the termination of the license.

(4) REPORTS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act and not less than once every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on—

(A) efforts taken to remediate contaminated soils on tract 43 described in subsection (a)(2);

(B) a schedule for the completion of contaminated soil remediation on tract 43; and

(C) any use of tract 43 to carry out Coast Guard navigation activities.

(c) AGREEMENT ON TRANSFER OF OTHER PROPERTY ON ST. PAUL ISLAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the property transferred under subsection (a), not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce and the presiding officer of the Alaska native village corporation for St. Paul Island shall enter into an agreement to exchange of property on Tracts 50 and 38 on St. Paul Island and to finalize the recording of deeds, to reflect the boundaries and ownership of Tracts 50 and 38 as depicted on a survey of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to be filed with the Office of the Recorder for the Department of Natural Resources for the State of Alaska.

(2) EASEMENTS.—The survey described in subsection (a) shall include respective easements granted to the Secretary and the Alaska native village corporation for the purpose of utilities, drainage, road access, and salt lagoon conservation.

SEC. 523. NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION.

Section 105 of the Pribilof Islands Transition Act (16 U.S.C. 1161 note; Public Law 106–562) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting ''Notwithstanding paragraph (2) and effective beginning on the date the Secretary publishes the notice of certification required by subsection (b)(5), the Secretary'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking ''section 205 of the Fur Seal Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 1165)'' and inserting ''section 205(a) of the Fur Seal Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 1165(a))''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall promptly publish and submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate notice that the certification described in paragraph (2) has been made.''; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''makes the certification described in subsection (b)(2)'' and inserting ''publishes the notice of certification required by subsection (b)(5)''; and

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking ''Section 205'' and inserting ''Subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d) of section 205'';

(4) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (g); and

(5) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) NOTIFICATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the Secretary makes a determination under subsection (f) that land on St. Paul Island, Alaska, not specified for transfer in the document entitled 'Transfer of Property on the Pribilof Islands: Descriptions, Terms and Conditions' or section 522 of the Pribilof Island Transition Completion Act of 2015 is in excess of the needs of the Secretary and the Federal Government, the Secretary shall notify the Alaska native village corporation for St. Paul Island of the determination.

''(2) ELECTION TO RECEIVE.—Not later than 60 days after the date receipt of the notification of the Secretary under subsection (a), the Alaska native village corporation for St. Paul Island shall notify the Secretary in writing whether the Alaska native village corporation elects to receive all right, title, and interest in the land or a portion of the land.

''(3) TRANSFER.—If the Alaska native village corporation provides notice under paragraph (2) that the Alaska native village corporation elects to receive all right, title and interest in the land or a portion of the land, the Secretary shall transfer all right, title, and interest in the land or portion to the Alaska native village corporation at no cost.

''(4) OTHER DISPOSITION.—If the Alaska native village corporation does not provide notice under paragraph (2) that the Alaska native village corporation elects to receive all right, title, and interest in the land or a portion of the land, the Secretary may dispose of the land in accordance with other applicable law.

''(f) DETERMINATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this subsection and not less than once every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary shall determine whether property located on St. Paul Island and not transferred to the Natives of the Pribilof Islands is in excess of the smallest practicable tract enclosing land—

''(A) needed by the Secretary for the purposes of carrying out the Fur Seal Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 1151 et seq.);

''(B) in the case of land withdrawn by the Secretary on behalf of other Federal agencies, needed for carrying out the missions of those agencies for which land was withdrawn; or

''(C) actually used by the Federal Government in connection with the administration of any Federal installation on St. Paul Island.

''(2) REPORT OF DETERMINATION.—When a determination is made under subsection (a), the Secretary shall report the determination to—

''(A) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives;

''(B) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

''(C) the Alaska native village corporation for St. Paul Island.''.

SEC. 524. REDUNDANT CAPABILITY.

(a) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Except as provided in subsection (b), section 681 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, shall not be construed to prohibit any transfer or conveyance of lands under this subtitle or any actions that involve the dismantling or disposal of infrastructure that supported the former LORAN system that are associated with the transfer or conveyance of lands under section 522.

(b) REDUNDANT CAPABILITY.—If, within the 5-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating determines that a facility on Tract 43, if transferred under this subtitle, is subsequently required to provide a positioning, navigation, and timing system to provide redundant capability in the event GPS signals are disrupted, the Secretary may—

(1) operate, maintain, keep, locate, inspect, repair, and replace such facility; and

(2) in carrying out the activities described in paragraph (1), enter, at any time, the facility without notice to the extent that it is not possible to provide advance notice, for as long as such facility is needed to provide such capability.

Subtitle C—Conveyance of Coast Guard Property at Point Spencer, Alaska

SEC. 531. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds as follows:

(1) Major shipping traffic is increasing through the Bering Strait, the Bering and Chukchi Seas, and the Arctic Ocean, and will continue to increase whether or not development of the Outer Continental Shelf of the United States is undertaken in the future, and will increase further if such Outer Continental Shelf development is undertaken.

(2) There is a compelling national, State, Alaska Native, and private sector need for permanent infrastructure development and for a presence in the Arctic region of Alaska by appropriate agencies of the Federal Government, particularly in proximity to the Bering Strait, to support and facilitate search and rescue, shipping safety, economic development, oil spill prevention and response, protection of Alaska Native archaeological and cultural resources, port of refuge, arctic research, and maritime law enforcement on the Bering Sea, the Chukchi Sea, and the Arctic Ocean.

(3) The United States owns a parcel of land, known as Point Spencer, located between the Bering Strait and Port Clarence and adjacent to some of the best potential deepwater port sites on the coast of Alaska in the Arctic.

(4) Prudent and effective use of Point Spencer may be best achieved through marshaling the energy, resources, and leadership of the public and private sectors.

(5) It is in the national interest to develop infrastructure at Point Spencer that would aid the

Coast Guard in performing its statutory duties and functions in the Arctic on a more permanent basis and to allow for public and private sector development of facilities and other infrastructure to support purposes that are of benefit to the United States.

SEC. 532. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) ARCTIC.—The term ''Arctic'' has the meaning given that term in section 112 of the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4111).

(2) BSNC.—The term ''BSNC'' means the Bering Straits Native Corporation authorized under section 7 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1606).

(3) COUNCIL.—The term ''Council'' means the Port Coordination Council established under section 541.

(4) PLAN.—The term ''Plan'' means the Port Management Coordination Plan developed under section 541.

(5) POINT SPENCER.—The term ''Point Spencer'' means the land known as ''Point Spencer'' located in Townships 2, 3, and 4 South, Range 40 West, Kateel River Meridian, Alaska, between the Bering Strait and Port Clarence and withdrawn by Public Land Order 2650 (published in the Federal Register on April 12, 1962).

(6) SECRETARY.—Except as otherwise specifically provided, the term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating.

(7) STATE.—The term ''State'' means the State of Alaska.

(8) TRACT.—The term ''Tract'' or ''Tracts'' means any of Tract 1, Tract 2, Tract 3, Tract 4, Tract 5, or Tract 6, as appropriate, or any portion of such Tract or Tracts.

(9) TRACTS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, AND 6.—The terms ''Tract 1'', ''Tract 2'', ''Tract 3'', ''Tract 4'', ''Tract 5'', and ''Tract 6'' each mean the land generally depicted as Tract 1, Tract 2, Tract 3, Tract 4, Tract 5, or Tract 6, respectively, on the map entitled the ''Point Spencer Land Retention and Conveyance Map'', dated January 2015, and on file with the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of the Interior.

SEC. 533. AUTHORITY TO CONVEY LAND IN POINT SPENCER.

(a) AUTHORITY TO CONVEY TRACTS 1, 3, AND 4.—Within 1 year after the Secretary notifies the Secretary of the Interior that the Coast Guard no longer needs to retain jurisdiction of Tract 1, Tract 3, or Tract 4 and subject to section 534, the Secretary of the Interior shall convey to BSNC or the State, subject to valid existing rights, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the surface and subsurface estates of that Tract in accordance with subsection (d).

(b) AUTHORITY TO CONVEY TRACTS 2 AND 5.—Within 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section and subject to section 534, the Secretary of the Interior shall convey, subject to valid existing rights, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the surface and subsurface estates of Tract 2 and Tract 5 in accordance with subsection (d).

(c) AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER TRACT 6.—Within one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and subject to sections 534 and 535, the Secretary of the Interior shall convey, subject to valid existing rights, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the surface and subsurface estates of Tract 6 in accordance with subsection (e).

(d) ORDER OF OFFER TO CONVEY TRACT 1, 2, 3, 4, OR 5.—

(1) DETERMINATION AND OFFER.—

(A) TRACT 1, 3, OR 4.—If the Secretary makes the determination under subsection (a) and subject to section 534, the Secretary of the Interior shall offer Tract 1, Tract 3, or Tract 4 for conveyance to BSNC under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.).

(B) TRACT 2 AND 5.—Subject to section 534, the Secretary of the Interior shall offer Tract 2 and Tract 5 to BSNC under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.).

(2) OFFER TO BSNC.—

(A) ACCEPTANCE BY BSNC.—If BSNC chooses to accept an offer of conveyance of a Tract under paragraph (1), the Secretary of the Interior shall consider Tract 6 as within BSNC's entitlement under section 14(h)(8) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1613(h)(8)) and shall convey such Tract to BSNC.

(B) DECLINE BY BSNC.—If BSNC declines to accept an offer of conveyance of a Tract under paragraph (1), the Secretary of the Interior shall offer such Tract for conveyance to the State under the Act of July 7, 1958 (commonly known as the ''Alaska Statehood Act'') (48 U.S.C. note prec. 21; Public Law 85–508).

(3) OFFER TO STATE.—

(A) ACCEPTANCE BY STATE.—If the State chooses to accept an offer of conveyance of a Tract under paragraph (2)(B), the Secretary of the Interior shall consider such Tract as within the State's entitlement under the Act of July 7, 1958 (commonly known as the ''Alaska Statehood Act'') (48 U.S.C. note prec. 21; Public Law 85–508) and shall convey such Tract to the State.

(B) DECLINE BY STATE.—If the State declines to accept an offer of conveyance of a Tract offered under paragraph (2)(B), such Tract shall be disposed of pursuant to applicable public land laws.

(e) ORDER OF OFFER TO CONVEY TRACT 6.—

(1) OFFER.—Subject to section 534, the Secretary of the Interior shall offer Tract 6 for conveyance to the State.

(2) OFFER TO STATE.—

(A) ACCEPTANCE BY STATE.—If the State chooses to accept an offer of conveyance of Tract 6 under paragraph (1), the Secretary of the Interior shall consider Tract 6 as within the State's entitlement under the Act of July 7, 1958 (commonly known as the ''Alaska Statehood Act'') (48 U.S.C. note prec. 21; Public Law 85–508) and shall convey Tract 6 to the State.

(B) DECLINE BY STATE.—If the State declines to accept an offer of conveyance of Tract 6 under paragraph (1), the Secretary of the Interior shall offer Tract 6 for conveyance to BSNC under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.).

(3) OFFER TO BSNC.—

(A) ACCEPTANCE BY BSNC.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), if BSNC chooses to accept an offer of conveyance of Tract 6 under paragraph (2)(B), the Secretary of the Interior shall consider Tract 6 as within BSNC's entitlement under section 14(h)(8) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1613(h)(8)) and shall convey Tract 6 to BSNC.

(ii) LEASE BY THE STATE.—The conveyance of Tract 6 to BSNC shall be subject to BSNC negotiating a lease of Tract 6 to the State at no cost to the State, if the State requests such a lease.

(B) DECLINE BY BSNC.—If BSNC declines to accept an offer of conveyance of Tract 6 under paragraph (2)(B), the Secretary of the Interior shall dispose of Tract 6 pursuant to the applicable public land laws.

SEC. 534. ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE, LIABILITY, AND MONITORING.

(a) ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE.—Nothing in this Act or any amendment made by this Act may be construed to affect or limit the application of or obligation to comply with any applicable environmental law, including section 120(h) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9620(h)).

(b) LIABILITY.—A person to which a conveyance is made under this subtitle shall hold the United States harmless from any liability with respect to activities carried out on or after the date of the conveyance of the real property conveyed. The United States shall remain responsible for any liability with respect to activities carried out before such date on the real property conveyed.

(c) MONITORING OF KNOWN CONTAMINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent practicable and subject to paragraph (2), any contamination in a Tract to be conveyed to the State or BSNC under this subtitle that—

(A) is identified in writing prior to the conveyance; and

(B) does not pose an immediate or long-term risk to human health or the environment;

may be routinely monitored and managed by the State or BSNC, as applicable, through institutional controls.

(2) INSTITUTIONAL CONTROLS.—Institutional controls may be used if—

(A) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Governor of the State concur that such controls are protective of human health and the environment; and

(B) such controls are carried out in accordance with Federal and State law.

SEC. 535. EASEMENTS AND ACCESS.

(a) USE BY COAST GUARD.—The Secretary of the Interior shall make each conveyance of any relevant Tract under this subtitle subject to an easement granting the Coast Guard, at no cost to the Coast Guard—

(1) use of all existing and future landing pads, airstrips, runways, and taxiways that are located on such Tract; and

(2) the right to access such landing pads, airstrips, runways, and taxiways.

(b) USE BY STATE.—For any Tract conveyed to BSNC under this subtitle, BSNC shall provide to the State, if requested and pursuant to negotiated terms with the State, an easement granting to the State, at no cost to the State—

(1) use of all existing and future landing pads, airstrips, runways, and taxiways located on such Tract; and

(2) a right to access such landing pads, airstrips, runways, and taxiways.

(c) RIGHT OF ACCESS OR RIGHT OF WAY.—If the State requests a right of access or right of way for a road from the airstrip to the southern tip of Point Spencer, the location of such right of access or right of way shall be determined by the State, in consultation with the Secretary and BSNC, so that such right of access or right of way is compatible with other existing or planned infrastructure development at Point Spencer.

(d) ACCESS EASEMENT ACROSS TRACTS 2, 5, AND 6.—In conveyance documents to the State and BSNC under this subtitle, the Coast Guard shall retain an access easement across Tracts 2, 5, and 6 reasonably necessary to afford the Coast Guard with access to Tracts 1, 3, and 4 for its operations.

(e) ACCESS.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Coast Guard shall provide to the State and BSNC, access to Tracts for planning, design, and engineering related to remediation and use of and construction on those Tracts.

(f) PUBLIC ACCESS EASEMENTS.—No public access easements may be reserved to the United States under section 17(b) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1616(b)) with respect to the land conveyed under this subtitle.

SEC. 536. RELATIONSHIP TO PUBLIC LAND ORDER 2650.

(a) TRACTS NOT CONVEYED.—Any Tract that is not conveyed under this subtitle shall remain withdrawn pursuant to Public Land Order 2650 (published in the Federal Register on April 12, 1962).

(b) TRACTS CONVEYED.—For any Tract conveyed under this subtitle, Public Land Order 2650 shall automatically terminate upon issuance of a conveyance document issued pursuant to this subtitle for such Tract.

SEC. 537. ARCHEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES.

Conveyance of any Tract under this subtitle shall not affect investigations, criminal jurisdiction, and responsibilities regarding theft or vandalism of archeological or cultural resources located in or on such Tract that took place prior to conveyance under this subtitle.

SEC. 538. MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.

(a) PREPARATION OF MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior in consultation with the Secretary shall prepare maps and legal descriptions of Tract 1, Tract 2, Tract 3, Tract 4, Tract 5, and Tract 6. In doing so, the Secretary of the Interior may use metes and bounds legal descriptions based upon the official survey plats of Point Spencer accepted by the Bureau of Land Management on December 6, 1978, and on information provided by the Secretary.

(b) SURVEY.—Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall survey Tracts conveyed under this subtitle and patent the Tracts in accordance with the official plats of survey.

(c) LEGAL EFFECT.—The maps and legal descriptions prepared under subsection (a) and the surveys prepared under subsection (b) shall have the same force and effect as if the maps and legal descriptions were included in this Act.

(d) CORRECTIONS.—The Secretary of the Interior may correct any clerical and typographical errors in the maps and legal descriptions prepared under subsection (a) and the surveys prepared under subsection (b).

(e) AVAILABILITY.—Copies of the maps and legal descriptions prepared under subsection (a) and the surveys prepared under subsection (b) shall be available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of—

(1) the Bureau of Land Management; and

(2) the Coast Guard.

SEC. 539. CHARGEABILITY FOR LAND CONVEYED.

(a) CONVEYANCES TO ALASKA.—The Secretary of the Interior shall charge any conveyance of land conveyed to the State of Alaska pursuant to this subtitle against the State's remaining entitlement under section 6(b) of the Act of July 7, 1958 (commonly known as the ''Alaska Statehood Act''; Public Law 85–508: 72 Stat. 339).

(b) CONVEYANCES TO BSNC.—The Secretary of the Interior shall charge any conveyance of land conveyed to BSNC pursuant to this subtitle, against BSNC's remaining entitlement under section 14(h)(8) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1613(h)(8)).

SEC. 540. REDUNDANT CAPABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), section 681 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, shall not be construed to prohibit any transfer or conveyance of lands under this subtitle or any actions that involve the dismantling or disposal of infrastructure that supported the former LORAN system that are associated with the transfer or conveyance of lands under this subtitle.

(b) CONTINUED ACCESS TO AND USE OF FACILITIES.—If the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating determines, within the 5-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, that a facility on any of Tract 1, Tract 3, or Tract 4 that is transferred under this subtitle is subsequently required to provide a positioning, navigation, and timing system to provide redundant capability in the event GPS signals are disrupted, the Secretary may, for as long as such facility is needed to provide redundant capability—

(1) operate, maintain, keep, locate, inspect, repair, and replace such facility; and

(2) in carrying out the activities described in paragraph (1), enter, at any time, the facility without notice to the extent that it is not possible to provide advance notice.

SEC. 541. PORT COORDINATION COUNCIL FOR POINT SPENCER.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Port Coordination Council for the Port of Point Spencer.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Council shall consist of a representative appointed by each of the following:

(1) The State.

(2) BSNC.

(c) DUTIES.—The duties of the Council are as follows:

(1) To develop a Port Management Coordination Plan to help coordinate infrastructure development and operations at the Port of Point Spencer, that includes plans for—

(A) construction;

(B) funding eligibility;

(C) land use planning and development; and

(D) public interest use and access, emergency preparedness, law enforcement, protection of Alaska Native archaeological and cultural resources, and other matters that are necessary for public and private entities to function in proximity together in a remote location.

(2) Update the Plan annually for the first 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act and biennially thereafter.

(3) Facilitate coordination among BSNC, the State, and the Coast Guard, on the development and use of the land and coastline as such development relates to activities at the Port of Point Spencer.

(4) Assess the need, benefits, efficacy, and desirability of establishing in the future a port authority at Point Spencer under State law and act upon that assessment, as appropriate, including taking steps for the potential formation of such a port authority.

(d) PLAN.—In addition to the requirements under subsection (c)(1) to the greatest extent practicable, the Plan developed by the Council shall facilitate and support the statutory missions and duties of the Coast Guard and operations of the Coast Guard in the Arctic.

(e) COSTS.—Operations and management costs for airstrips, runways, and taxiways at Point Spencer shall be determined pursuant to provisions of the Plan, as negotiated by the Council.

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 601. MODIFICATION OF REPORTS.

(a) DISTANT WATER TUNA FLEET.—Section 421(d) of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (46 U.S.C. 8103 note) is amended by striking ''On March 1, 2007, and annually thereafter'' and inserting ''Not later than July 1 of each year''.

(b) ANNUAL UPDATES ON LIMITS TO LIABILITY.—Section 603(c)(3) of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (33 U.S.C. 2704 note) is amended by striking ''on an annual basis.'' and inserting ''not later than January 30 of the year following each year in which occurs an oil discharge from a vessel or nonvessel source that results or is likely to result in removal costs and damages (as those terms are defined in section 1001 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701)) that exceed liability limits established under section 1004 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2704).''.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating a report detailing the specifications and capabilities for interoperable communications the Commandant determines are necessary to allow the Coast Guard to successfully carry out its missions that require communications with other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and nongovernmental entities.

SEC. 602. SAFE VESSEL OPERATION IN THE GREAT LAKES.

The Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–281) is amended—

(1) in section 610, by—

(A) striking the section enumerator and heading and inserting the following:

''SEC. 610. SAFE VESSEL OPERATION IN THE GREAT LAKES.'';

(B) striking ''existing boundaries and any future expanded boundaries of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve'' and inserting ''boundaries of any national marine sanctuary that preserves shipwrecks or maritime heritage in the Great Lakes''; and

(C) inserting before the period at the end the following: '', unless the designation documents for such sanctuary do not allow taking up or discharging ballast water in such sanctuary''; and

(2) in the table of contents in section 2, by striking the item relating to such section and inserting the following:

''Sec. 610. Safe vessel operation in the Great Lakes.''.

SEC. 603. USE OF VESSEL SALE PROCEEDS.

(a) AUDIT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an audit of funds credited in each fiscal year after fiscal year 2004 to the Vessel Operations Revolving Fund that are attributable to the sale of obsolete vessels in the National Defense Reserve Fleet that were scrapped or sold under sections 57102, 57103, and 57104 of title 46, United States Code, including—

(1) a complete accounting of all vessel sale proceeds attributable to the sale of obsolete vessels in the National Defense Reserve Fleet that were scrapped or sold under sections 57102, 57103, and 57104 of title 46, United States Code, in each fiscal year after fiscal year 2004;

(2) the annual apportionment of proceeds accounted for under paragraph (1) among the uses authorized under section 308704 of title 54, United States Code, in each fiscal year after fiscal year 2004, including—

(A) for National Maritime Heritage Grants, including a list of all annual National Maritime Heritage Grant grant and subgrant awards that identifies the respective grant and subgrant recipients and grant and subgrant amounts;

(B) for the preservation and presentation to the public of maritime heritage property of the Maritime Administration;

(C) to the United States Merchant Marine Academy and State maritime academies, including a list of annual awards; and

(D) for the acquisition, repair, reconditioning, or improvement of vessels in the National Defense Reserve Fleet; and

(3) an accounting of proceeds, if any, attributable to the sale of obsolete vessels in the National Defense Reserve Fleet that were scrapped or sold under sections 57102, 57103, and 57104 of title 46, United States Code, in each fiscal year after fiscal year 2004, that were expended for uses not authorized under section 308704 of title 54, United States Code.

(b) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit the audit conducted in subsection (a) to the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Natural Resources, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 604. NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES COST ASSESSMENT.

(a) COST ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall seek to enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences under which the Academy, by no later than 365 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate an assessment of the costs incurred by the Federal Government to carry out polar icebreaking missions. The assessment shall—

(1) describe current and emerging requirements for the Coast Guard's polar icebreaking capabilities, taking into account the rapidly changing ice cover in the Arctic environment, national security considerations, and expanding commercial activities in the Arctic and Antarctic, including marine transportation, energy development, fishing, and tourism;

(2) identify potential design, procurement, leasing, service contracts, crewing, and technology options that could minimize life-cycle costs and optimize efficiency and reliability of Coast Guard polar icebreaker operations in the Arctic and Antarctic; and

(3) examine—

(A) Coast Guard estimates of the procurement and operating costs of a Polar icebreaker capable of carrying out Coast Guard maritime safety, national security, and stewardship responsibilities including—

(i) economies of scale that might be achieved for construction of multiple vessels; and

(ii) costs of renovating existing polar class icebreakers to operate for a period of no less than 10 years.

(B) the incremental cost to augment the design of such an icebreaker for multiuse capabilities for scientific missions;

(C) the potential to offset such incremental cost through cost-sharing agreements with other Federal departments and agencies; and

(D) United States polar icebreaking capability in comparison with that of other Arctic nations, and with nations that conduct research in the Arctic.

(b) INCLUDED COSTS.—For purposes of subsection (a), the assessment shall include costs incurred by the Federal Government for—

(1) the lease or operation and maintenance of the vessel or vessels concerned;

(2) disposal of such vessels at the end of the useful life of the vessels;

(3) retirement and other benefits for Federal employees who operate such vessels; and

(4) interest payments assumed to be incurred for Federal capital expenditures.

(c) ASSUMPTIONS.—For purposes of comparing the costs of such alternatives, the Academy shall assume that—

(1) each vessel under consideration is—

(A) capable of breaking out McMurdo Station and conducting Coast Guard missions in the Antarctic, and in the United States territory in the Arctic (as that term is defined in section 112 of the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4111)); and

(B) operated for a period of 30 years;

(2) the acquisition of services and the operation of each vessel begins on the same date; and

(3) the periods for conducting Coast Guard missions in the Arctic are of equal lengths.

(d) USE OF INFORMATION.—In formulating cost pursuant to subsection (a), the National Academy of Sciences may utilize information from other Coast Guard reports, assessments, or analyses regarding existing Coast Guard Polar class icebreakers or for the acquisition of a polar icebreaker for the Federal Government.

SEC. 605. COASTWISE ENDORSEMENTS.

(a) ''ELETTRA III''.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sections 12112 and 12132, of title 46, United States Code, and subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may issue a certificate of documentation with a coastwise endorsement for the vessel M/V Elettra III (United States official number 694607).

(2) LIMITATION ON OPERATION.—Coastwise trade authorized under a certificate of documentation issued under paragraph (1) shall be limited to the carriage of passengers and equipment in association with the operation of the vessel in the Puget Sound region to support marine and maritime science education.

(3) TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS OF CERTIFICATE.—A certificate of documentation issued under paragraph (1) shall expire on the earlier of—

(A) the date of the sale of the vessel or the entity that owns the vessel;

(B) the date any repairs or alterations are made to the vessel outside of the United States; or

(C) the date the vessel is no longer operated as a vessel in the Puget Sound region to support the marine and maritime science education.

(b) ''F/V RONDYS''.—Notwithstanding section 12132 of title 46, United States Code, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may issue a certificate of documentation with a coastwise endorsement for the F/V Rondys (O.N. 291085)

SEC. 606. INTERNATIONAL ICE PATROL.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report that describes the current operations to perform the International Ice Patrol mission and on alternatives for carrying out that mission, including satellite surveillance technology.

(b) ALTERNATIVES.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include whether an alternative—

(1) provides timely data on ice conditions with the highest possible resolution and accuracy;

(2) is able to operate in all weather conditions or any time of day; and

(3) is more cost effective than the cost of current operations.

SEC. 607. ASSESSMENT OF OIL SPILL RESPONSE AND CLEANUP ACTIVITIES IN THE GREAT LAKES.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard, in consultation with the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the head of any other agency the Commandant determines appropriate, shall conduct an assessment of the effectiveness of oil spill response activities specific to the Great Lakes. Such assessment shall include—

(1) an evaluation of new research into oil spill impacts in fresh water under a wide range of conditions; and

(2) an evaluation of oil spill prevention and clean up contingency plans, in order to improve understanding of oil spill impacts in the Great Lakes and foster innovative improvements to safety technologies and environmental protection systems.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Congress a report on the results of the assessment required by subsection (a).

SEC. 608. REPORT ON STATUS OF TECHNOLOGY DETECTING PASSENGERS WHO HAVE FALLEN OVERBOARD.

Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit a report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives that—

(1) describes the status of technology for immediately detecting passengers who have fallen overboard;

(2) includes a recommendation to cruise lines on the feasibility of implementing technology that immediately detects passengers who have fallen overboard, factoring in cost and the risk of false positives;

(3) includes data collected from cruise lines on the status of the integration of the technology described in paragraph (2) on cruise ships, including—

(A) the number of cruise ships that have the technology to capture images of passengers who have fallen overboard; and

(B) the number of cruise lines that have tested technology that can detect passengers who have fallen overboard; and

(4) includes information on any other available technologies that cruise ships could integrate to assist in facilitating the search and rescue of a passenger who has fallen overboard.

SEC. 609. VENUE.

Section 311(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1861(d)) is amended by striking the second sentence and inserting ''In the case of Hawaii or any possession of the United States in the Pacific Ocean, the appropriate court is the United States District Court for the District of Hawaii, except that in the case of Guam and Wake Island, the appropriate court is the United States District Court for the District of Guam, and in the case of the Northern Mariana Islands, the appropriate court is the United States District Court for the District of the Northern Mariana Islands.''.

SEC. 610. DISPOSITION OF INFRASTRUCTURE RELATED TO E-LORAN.

(a) DISPOSITION OF INFRASTRUCTURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 681. Disposition of infrastructure related to E–LORAN

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not carry out activities related to the dismantling or disposal of infrastructure comprising the LORAN–C system until the date on which the Secretary provides to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate notice of a determination by the Secretary that such infrastructure is not required to provide a positioning, navigation, and timing system to provide redundant capability in the event the Global Positioning System signals are disrupted.

''(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) does not apply to activities necessary for the safety of human life.

''(c) DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—On any date after the notification is made under subsection (a), the Administrator of General Services, acting on behalf of the Secretary, may, notwithstanding any other provision of law, sell any real and personal property under the administrative control of the Coast Guard and used for the LORAN–C system, subject to such terms and conditions that the Secretary believes to be necessary to protect government interests and program requirements of the Coast Guard.

''(2) AVAILABILITY OF PROCEEDS.—

''(A) AVAILABILITY OF PROCEEDS.—The proceeds of such sales, less the costs of sale incurred by the General Services Administration, shall be deposited as offsetting collections into the Coast Guard 'Environmental Compliance and Restoration' account and, without further appropriation, shall be available until expended for—

''(i) environmental compliance and restoration purposes associated with the LORAN–C system;

''(ii) the costs of securing and maintaining equipment that may be used as a backup to the Global Positioning System or to meet any other Federal navigation requirement;

''(iii) the demolition of improvements on such real property; and

''(iv) the costs associated with the sale of such real and personal property, including due diligence requirements, necessary environmental remediation, and reimbursement of expenses incurred by the General Services Administration.

''(B) OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND RESTORATION ACTIVITIES.—After the completion of activities described in subparagraph (A), the unexpended balances of such proceeds shall be available for any other environmental compliance and restoration activities of the Coast Guard.''

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

''681. Disposition of infrastructure related to E–LORAN.''.

(3) CONFORMING REPEALS.—

(A) Section 229 of the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–281; 128 Stat. 3040), and the item relating to that section in section 2 of such Act, are repealed.

(B) Subsection 559(e) of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2010 (Public Law 111–83; 123 Stat. 2180) is repealed.

(b) AGREEMENTS TO DEVELOP BACKUP POSITIONING, NAVIGATION, AND TIMING SYSTEM.—Section 93(a) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''and'' after the semicolon at the end of paragraph (23), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (24) and inserting ''; and'', and by adding at the end the following the following:

''(25) enter into cooperative agreements, contracts, and other agreements with Federal entities and other public or private entities, including academic entities, to develop a positioning, navigation, and timing system to provide redundant capability in the event Global Positioning System signals are disrupted, which may consist of an enhanced LORAN system.''.

SEC. 611. PARKING.

Section 611(a) of the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–281; 128 Stat. 3064) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) REIMBURSEMENT.—Through September 30, 2017, additional parking made available under paragraph (2) shall be made available at no cost to the Coast Guard or members and employees of the Coast Guard.''.

SEC. 612. INAPPLICABILITY OF LOAD LINE REQUIREMENTS TO CERTAIN UNITED STATES VESSELS TRAVELING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO.

Section 5102(b) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(13) a vessel of the United States on a domestic voyage that is within the Gulf of Mexico and operating not more than 15 nautical miles seaward of the base line from which the territorial sea of the United States is measured between Crystal Bay, Florida and Hudson Creek, Florida.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 4188.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here with my good friend from California (Mr. GARAMENDI), and it looks like the third time is the charm for the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015. After twice passing an authorization bill to the Senate in 2015, we finally have before us a Senate-passed bill.

H.R. 4188, as amended by the Senate, is very similar to the legislation which passed the House in December of 2015. It makes several reforms to Coast Guard authorities, as well as laws governing shipping and navigation. It is important legislation that will assist the Coast Guard in fulfilling its missions.

I thank the committee ranking members, Mr. DEFAZIO and Mr. GARAMENDI, for their hard work and their efforts, and Chairman SHUSTER for his leadership. Our collective interests to support the Coast Guard and its many missions allowed for the development of the bill before us today.

The members of the Coast Guard do a tremendous job for our Nation. Coast Guard servicemembers place their lives on the line and at risk on a daily basis to save those in danger, ensure the safety and security of our ports and waterways, and protect our environmental resources.

Passing H.R. 4188 will help rebuild and strengthen the Coast Guard. It will also demonstrate the strong support Congress has for the men and women of the Coast Guard and the deep appreciation we have for the sacrifices they make for our Nation.

□ 1900

I thank John Rayfield, who is on my staff, and the Democrats' staff for what they have done on this bill. I thank Reyna Hernandez McGrail for the work that she put in, and I thank Commander Burdian, with the Coast Guard, who liaised with us on a daily basis to get this done.

I urge all Members to support H.R. 4188 as amended by the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to be here again, at the beginning of another year, to rise to join Chairman HUNTER in strong support of legislation to authorize funding for the United States Coast Guard and to advance new policy initiatives to strengthen the prospects for the U.S. flag and the U.S. maritime industry.

H.R. 4188, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015, is very carefully crafted bipartisan-bicameral legislation that has been developed over the course of far too long. It should have and could have been done last year, but here we are.

I thank the Senate. I guess I should be a little more kind to the other House.

Several months of negotiation with Members of the Senate have finally concluded. This bill is deserving of robust support from Members on both sides of the aisle, and I urge its quick passage by the House today so it can be enrolled and sent to the President for his signature.

I thank Chairman HUNTER for his leadership and cooperative spirit in working with me and the other Democrats to address our interests and concerns. The willingness of Chairman HUNTER and of his outstanding staff on the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee to collaborate and work with the minority is very, very much appreciated.

Now, the bill is not perfect. In fact, I haven't seen one in the years I have been here, and that has been a few years now; but that is the case with virtually every piece of bipartisan legislation that has been passed by Congress. On balance, the benefits of this bill really outweigh any detrimental aspects.

I am pleased this legislation will provide an increased authorized funding level for the Coast Guard for the next 2 fiscal years. Our Coast Guard has suffered over the past 3 to 4 fiscal years due to insufficient budgets. The authorized funding levels in this legislation, along with the increased appropriation in the fiscal year 2016 omnibus bill, are a marked improvement.

The importance of budget stability to the men and women of the Coast Guard cannot be overstated. Coastguardsmen and -women are pressed daily to meet the arduous demands of the service's 11 statutory missions which scatter them over seven different continents and every ocean. In fact, last week, I saw three of our cutters at the dock in Bahrain working to preserve our interests in the Persian Gulf.

The last thing our Coast Guard needs is to face recurrent budget uncertainties, a circumstance which leaves the service's leadership unable to know exactly what resources and capabilities they have available to perform vital national security functions, such as addressing port and harbor security, illegal drug and migrant interdiction, search and rescue, law enforcement and environmental response actions, and several other important activities.

This legislation will also strengthen our national security through provisions that enhance policies that govern foreign port security assignments. Others that bolster the coordination of international port inspections, conducted by the Coast Guard and our foreign partners, will help better ensure that critical maritime infrastructure does not become a liability for national security.

Additionally, language included in the bill will strengthen the Coast Guard's maritime drug enforcement authority, which should improve the Federal Government's activities in the Western Hemisphere to combat illegal drug trafficking, which has had a substantial destabilizing effect on several nations across the region.

I am also very pleased that this legislation continues to move the ball down the field in an effort to strengthen and to recapitalize a new fleet of polar class heavy icebreakers for the Coast Guard.

It is clear that we are witnessing the opening of the Arctic to maritime commerce. We have got to do something, and this bill puts us on the road to doing that. In this most challenging of maritime environments, it is vital that the service has the icebreaking capabilities it will need to operate safely and effectively; so we will figure out whether the Polar Sea can actually be

refitted. Additionally, this legislation authorizes funding to allow the Coast Guard to maintain progress in finalizing requirements and in initiating preliminary designs for a new heavy icebreaker.

In moving to an end here, I am pleased that the legislation includes language to continue to preserve the remaining infrastructure at the former LORAN–C stations until such time that the administration makes a final decision on whether to build an enhanced LORAN, or E–LORAN, infrastructure as a reliable land-based, low-frequency backup navigation and timing signal for the global positioning satellite signal, which, I think, most of us know is the single point of failure for most of the American economy and for a good deal of our military. The GPS signal is fairly easy to corrupt, to degrade, or to otherwise disrupt. For this reason, we need to think seriously about a backup, and this bill sets us on the right course.

This administration needs to make a decision on this, and it should make it now. The language in this legislation ensures that we will have available in the future the remaining LORAN–C infrastructure.

I look forward to working with Chairman SHUSTER, with Ranking Member DEFAZIO, and, of course, with Chairman HUNTER in advancing this initiative wherever and whenever possible.

Again, I thank Chairman HUNTER and his staff for their support for the Coast Guard and the U.S. maritime industry and for their cooperation and leadership in pulling this bill together.

Of course, Congressman SHUSTER, who is the chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and Ranking Member DEFAZIO also deserve thanks for their leadership and contributions.

I thank my staff and the majority's staff for the work that they have done.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN).

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member and the chairman for the good work that has gone into this very important bill. As somebody who represents one-third of the California coast, obviously, this legislation is important to me. I want to especially thank the chairman and ranking member for one part of this legislation that has special significance to the people of Marin County, whom I am honored to represent.

Finding affordable housing in Marin County is very difficult, and it has only gotten harder since the Great Recession and since the rebound in the real estate market. That has had an impact on the families I represent. It has had an impact on businesses and on folks in agriculture who can't find the full-time staff that they need because they can't afford to live in the community.

Section 501 of this bill is going to help in a very significant way to address this housing crunch in West Marin. It is going to take some Coast Guard property that is excess property and sell it at fair market value to the County of Marin. This will be a win-win for the County of Marin and also for the Coast Guard. I look forward to seeing the county begin working with local partners on repurposing this property for the public benefit of affordable housing.

We still have a long way to go to make sure that working families in places like Marin County and everyplace else have access to quality housing, but this bill is an important step for at least one community that I represent.

I thank the tireless group of advocates who have worked on this, especially West Marin County Supervisor Steve Kinsey, Kim Thompson, and all of those at the Community Land Trust Association of West Marin, and others. Finally, I thank Ranking Member DEFAZIO and Chairman SHUSTER as well as the subcommittee members and staff. I thank very much the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI).

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

If I might just close by saying a special ''thank you'' to the chairman and his staff, to my staff—David—and to my own team on this. Also, this really was a bipartisan bill; so I thank Chairman THUNE and the ranking Democrat on the committee, BILL NELSON, for their efforts in putting together this bill.

Let's get this job done.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In closing, the Coast Guard in the future is going to fulfill a much greater role than it has filled since its inception. As you have weapons of mass destruction become ubiquitous throughout the world, the bad guys are going to use the same routes that they use to smuggle drugs and people to smuggle weapons of mass destruction into this country.

It is my belief and Mr. GARAMENDI's firm belief that the Coast Guard is going to play a major, pivotal role going forward. After the Iranian deal goes through, who knows who is going to have nuclear weapons. It is going to be the Coast Guard that interdicts and stops them on those same drug routes that they are going to be taking with those weapons of mass destruction; so it is important that we make sure that they are staffed, that they are capable, and that they are ready to do what we need them to do as a nation, even if it is different than what they have done for the last few hundred years.

I also thank my staff and Mr. GARAMENDI's staff and my personal staff for their time and effort. I will even squeak in a thank-you for the Senate for just finally getting it done.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4188, the ''Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015'', as amended by the Senate. This legislation is virtually the same bill that the House passed last December by voice vote. I urge Members from both sides of the aisle to again support this important maritime legislation.

As I noted when the bill passed the House late last year, this legislation reflects a sensible compromise negotiated with the other body that, most importantly, would provide increased authorized funding levels and budget stability for the Coast Guard for the next two years. Combined with the matching increases in FY 2016 appropriations contained in the recently-enacted Consolidated Appropriations Act, we will have provided a solid foundation to build from in the coming fiscal year.

Additionally, the legislation includes provisions to improve Coast Guard mission effectiveness, continue efforts to recapitalize the Service's aging vessels and other assets—especially the need for new polar icebreakers—and enhance maritime security and safety policy.

Importantly, the bill extends the existing statutory prohibition preventing the Coast Guard from closing its air facility, or AIRFAC, located in Newport, Oregon.

Due to budget cuts, in 2014, the Coast Guard threatened to close the Newport AIRFAC—which handles one-half of the emergency search and rescue response calls on the Central Oregon Coast.

In fact, only last week a 40-foot crabbing vessel capsized a mile from the entrance to Coos Bay, throwing four fishermen into the frigid and perilous waters of the North Pacific Ocean. This incident again demonstrates that calamity can strike at anytime off the Oregon Coast. It underscores the importance of keeping a strong AIRFAC presence along the Oregon coastline, to ensure the safety of Oregon's fishing industry, and the people who live, recreate, or work along the coast.

This legislation extends the existing statutory prohibition for an additional two years, and likely longer, depending on whether the Coast Guard completes some necessary planning to address the looming need to recapitalize its two helicopter fleets.

Moreover, after the prohibition expires, this legislation authorizes a rigorous administrative process that the Coast Guard must follow before it can close any AIRFAC.

In the future, the Coast Guard must promptly notify Members of Congress representing affected areas and convene public meetings in communities within the area of responsibility of the AIRFAC to gather information on how the closure would affect residents and visitors.

In its totality, this provision will ensure that any future proposal to close an AIRFAC will be vetted extensively through a transparent, public process; a process that will ensure that the Coast Guard's search and rescue capabilities are the absolute last place any one should consider cutting in the Coast Guard's budget.

I want to thank the Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Congressman BILL SHUSTER, for his leadership on this legislation. I also want to express my

appreciation for the very constructive and bipartisan working relationship we have developed to advance the agenda of the Committee this Congress. This legislation is a great start to 2016.

I also want to thank the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, Congressman DUNCAN HUNTER, and Ranking Member JOHN GARAMENDI, for their support for this provision, and for their close cooperation and contributions throughout negotiations with the other body.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, the final legislation before the House is a sensible, bipartisan product that supports our Nation's Coast Guard. And while admittedly not perfect, this legislation is something that Members on both sides of the aisle should readily support.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this critical legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YOUNG of Iowa). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 4188.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PENN STATE POLICE OFFICER STEW NEFF MARKS 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I deeply admire the service of policemen and -women who serve across Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District; but, today, I rise to note Lieutenant Stew Neff's service. He has been a member of the Penn State University Police Department for the past five decades.

Lieutenant Neff was born and raised not too far from State College, and he joined the Penn State Police Department as a dispatcher on January 10, 1966. Since then, he has filled many roles, most recently as a training officer, as a firearms instructor, and as a special events coordinator for the past 13 years.

As a sign of his longevity with the department, consider that the current assistant chief went to high school with Lieutenant Neff's daughter. At a time when so many people switch jobs at the drop of a hat, Stew's dedication to the Penn State Police Department and to the university, itself, is highly commendable.

Lieutenant Neff isn't planning on retiring soon. He says that he still loves his job and embraces the opportunity to serve his community as a member of the Penn State Police Department. I wish Stew the best of luck as his career continues.

MAJOR SHAWN CAMPBELL; CORPORAL MATTHEW DROWN—TEXAS MARINES

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, while patrolling the blue South Pacific seas, two American Stallion helicopters collided off the coast of Hawaii. It was January 14, 2016. Twelve U.S. marines on board perished. Despite rescue efforts by air and sea, the marines were never found. Their watery graves are only known to God.

Major Shawn Campbell, 41, and Corporal Matthew Drown, 23, were Texas' own. They were graduates of two neighboring high schools—Klein and Klein Oak—in my Texas congressional district.

Major Campbell, over here with two of his children, was a hardcore marine. A graduate of Texas A&M in microbiology, he served three tours of duty in combat in the Middle East. Recently, he was ordered to the States as an instructor pilot. Major Campbell left behind a wife and four kids.

Corporal Matthew Drown joined the Marines right out of Klein Oak High School in 2011. He was on the debate team and was a friend everyone wanted to have. He was planning on reenlisting in the Marine Corps.

These volunteers lived and died protecting America. They are the best that we have.

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing like a marine. Ronald Reagan said: ''Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference . . . The Marines don't have that problem.'' These men of Texas—Major Campbell and Corporal Drown—are two of those marines.

Now there are two more marines guarding Heaven's pearly gates. We pray for their families.

Semper Fi, Marines. Semper Fi.

And that is just the way it is.

□ 1915

E-FREE ACT

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to tell the story of Elvira Lopez of Odessa, Texas, one of tens of thousands of women harmed by the permanent sterilization device, Essure.

Elvira's story began in 2011 when she sought a tubal ligation. She was instead introduced to Essure. After surgery, her health began to decline dramatically.

Despite symptoms of confusion, low energy, and constant pain, doctor after doctor told her that the device was not causing her health issues.

Then, in 2015, she had no choice but to undergo a hysterectomy as a last-ditch attempt to end the pain caused by this flawed device.

I rise as a voice for the Essure Sisters to tell this Chamber that their pain is real, their stories are real, and their fight is real.

Mr. Speaker, my bill, the E-Free Act, can halt this tragedy by removing this dangerous device from the market. Too many women have been harmed.

I urge my colleagues to join this fight because stories like Elvira's are too important to ignore.

TRUTH IN ADVERTISING ACT OF 2016

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to once again ask the Federal Trade Commission to uphold its responsibility to protect consumers from the harmful effects of deceptive imagery in advertisements.

Along with my colleagues, LOIS CAPPS and TED DEUTCH, I am proud to introduce the Truth in Advertising Act of 2016 to direct the FTC to more fully study deceptive ads.

Research shows that a photo-shopped body and facial image can have a negative impact on mental health, potentially leading to the onset of depression, anxiety, and other behavioral disorders.

In particular, deceptive imagery may be contributing to the explosion of eating disorders in our country, with 30 million Americans now suffering and nearly two dozen deaths occurring each day from eating disorders.

It is time we all worked together to stop these deceptive advertising practices and end their heavy cost on families and taxpayers.

GRANITE STATERS COPE WITH HEROIN EPIDEMIC

(Mr. GUINTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize selfless Granite Staters, helping our State cope with the deadly heroin epidemic. Last month, in Rochester, I visited Hope on Haven Hill. Kerry Norton and Colene Arnold founded the charity to help pregnant New Hampshire mothers recover from heroin addiction and improve the health of their newborns.

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome—newborn babies addicted to drugs—is growing at a fast rate as heroin abuse spreads across our country. There were over 27,000 NAS cases in 2014, up from 5,000 just a decade earlier.

Babies with NAS suffer from painful withdrawal. Treatment centers like Hope on Haven Hill are helping to prevent the worst kind.

Another place in Manchester, New Hampshire, Hope for New Hampshire Recovery, will also open. Melissa Crews and Dick Anagnost, cofounders of Hope

for New Hampshire Recovery, are donating their time and energy to supply our State with more treatment options as Federal, State, and local governments develop better solutions.

In Congress we created the bipartisan task force to combat the heroin epidemic to help develop these types of solutions, and I praise these individuals for their selflessness.

HONORING MARGARET DUNLEAVY

(Mr. BISHOP of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect on the career of an outstanding public servant in my district, Margaret Dunleavy.

Mrs. Dunleavy retired at the end of 2015 after serving Livingston County as their clerk for 19 years. In her capacity as county clerk, Mrs. Dunleavy has been responsible for overseeing elections in the county as well as maintaining vital records and all circuit court records. She was first elected in 1996, and the voters of Livingston County chose her as their clerk in four additional elections.

Her role as county clerk was not Mrs. Dunleavy's first public service experience. She previously served as the Hartland Township, Michigan, clerk and deputy clerk.

Mrs. Dunleavy will be remembered as a hardworking, professional, ethical, and highly qualified clerk. I am thankful to have had the opportunity to work with her, and I wish her all the best in her future retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent such a dedicated public servant in Michigan's Eighth District.

Thank you, Mrs. Dunleavy, for your commitment to Livingston County.

IRAN TERROR FINANCE TRANSPARENCY ACT

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the Iran Terror Finance Transparency Act. This important legislation prevents sanctions from being lifted from banks and individuals who are connected to terrorism or Iran's weapons development program.

We do not need to be rewarding bad actors that are helping Iran become a nuclear state and continue to be the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism.

Recently Iran made headlines by conducting two ballistic missile tests, already violating the deal that the President forced on the American people earlier this year. Disappointingly, we have heard nothing from the administration.

This is the same Iran who funnels money to Hezbollah to finance terrorist attacks and the same Iran who awards medals for the capture of U.S. soldiers. Despicable.

It is abundantly clear that Iran is not to be trusted, and we must prevent rogue nations from becoming stronger. The administration needs to immediately reverse its course and hold those supporting terrorist efforts accountable.

In the name of national security, I urge my colleagues in the House to join me in voting in favor of this crucial and timely piece of legislation.

HONORING JULIA AARON HUMBLES

(Mr. RICHMOND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I just want to take a second to recognize a civil rights hero and New Orleans native who recently passed away: Julia Aaron Humbles.

An active participant in the civil rights movement from an early age, she was selected to be on the first Freedom Ride bus at the age of 18, which was ultimately firebombed outside Anniston, Alabama.

She wasn't on that bus. She was, in fact, in Orleans Parish prison because she was arrested for picketing outside a segregated Woolworth's department store.

Julia was constantly testing the rules of segregation in New Orleans. She is quoted as saying: I was the kind of kid that would move up the colored sign on the buses. I would use the White restroom or water fountain. If I got caught, I would say flippantly that I just wanted to taste that White water, and then I would run.

Julia passed away on January 26 in Stone Mountain, Georgia, of cancer. She was 72 years old. Our country is a much better place because of the sacrifices Julia made during her lifetime. Our sympathies and prayers are with her family today.

EQUAL TREATMENT OF PUBLIC SERVANTS ACT, H.R. 711

(Mr. RATCLIFFE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Speaker, I am humbled to represent thousands of teachers, firefighters, and law enforcement officers across the Fourth District of Texas who have dedicated their careers to public service.

As the son of two schoolteachers and as a former law enforcement official myself, I have a personal and deep-felt appreciation for those who shape future generations by educating our children and protecting the communities where we live.

Right now there are nearly 900,000 of these public servants who are being unjustly denied their hard-earned retirement benefits through an arbitrary formula called the windfall elimination provision, which can reduce their Social Security checks by up to $413 a month.

That is why I have cosponsored and why I strongly support H.R. 711, the Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act, to reduce and to eliminate the windfall elimination provision.

I urge my colleagues to take it up for a vote as soon as possible so that we can ensure that our public servants receive both the Social Security benefits and the pensions that they most certainly have earned.

CONGRATULATING DARYL VEATCH

(Mrs. HARTZLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in admiration of a leader in Missouri's Fourth District, Mr. Daryl Veatch.

Daryl has served tirelessly to provide reliable light and energy to Missouri members of the Osage Valley Electric Cooperative, of which I am a lifelong member. After 43 years, Mr. Veatch has resigned his position as the general manager of Osage Valley in Butler, Missouri.

His passion for excellence was seen throughout all of his work: from the beginning at Grundy Electric Cooperative, where he served as a clerk, to his tenure as the president of the Missouri Electric Cooperative Human Resources Association, the Accountants Association, and a member of the Public Relations Committee.

This year Daryl was honored with the esteemed A.C. Burrows Award given by the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives for his leadership above and beyond the call of duty to strengthen and improve the economic and social conditions of his community.

Part of going above and beyond for Daryl was being actively involved as a leader on the local Butler R-V School Board, the area Chamber of Commerce, and his Rotary Club.

Thank you for giving your life to the service of the citizens of Missouri's Fourth District. I congratulate you on a job well done. I look forward to hearing of the continued impact you will have in and for our community.

AN HOUR OF POWER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and add any extraneous materials relevant to the subject matter of this discussion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege for me to rise this evening as co-chair, along with my distinguished colleague who represents the Eighth District of New York, Congressman HAKEEM JEFFRIES, for this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour, an hour of power, addressing the state of our Union, Dr. King's dream, and today's African American message.

Congressman JEFFRIES is a scholar, a distinguished member of the Judiciary Committee. He continues to be a tireless advocate for social and economic justice, working hard to reform our criminal justice system, improve the economy for hardworking Americans, and to make college more affordable for all. Most importantly, he is someone that I am proud to follow and he is my colleague.

Today we come to educate and to discuss some of the many contributions and accomplishments in American history that African Americans etched into the cornerstone of this America, Mr. Speaker, that they helped change. The Congressional Black Caucus is and continues to be a part of that change.

As we reflect on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose holiday we recently observed, thanks to our Congressional Black Caucus colleague, Congressman JOHN CONYERS, the dean, who worked tirelessly to have the day observed as a Federal holiday, we pause to reflect on our progress and our history not only to remember, but to acknowledge, our unfinished work.

Congressional Black Caucus members and other colleagues with constituents across the country participated in holiday services, programs, marches, and many other events last week. This was not a day off, Mr. Speaker, but a day on in the spirit of Dr. King's legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to join some 4,000 constituents in my district in Columbus for the Nation's largest Martin Luther King breakfast celebration.

□ 1930

As I sat there, I was reminded of his words that we live by and that we are guided by: ''Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase.'' Later I had the opportunity to join hundreds of folks to march in freezing weather, singing ''We Shall Overcome.''

Today we also mark the beginning of the observation of Black History Month, to celebrate giants in civil rights, in the civil rights movement, as well as labor and education, transportation, the arts, and the service movement.

As we reflect on Dr. King's dream, just a few weeks ago President Barack Obama from this House floor, Mr. Speaker, delivered his final State of the Union Address. In his address, the President delivered a speech filled with hope and optimism, reminding us that we, the people—emphasizing all people—want opportunity and security for our families. It was a message of a better future, fairness, and democracy for all Americans because we rise or fall together, Mr. Speaker.

President Obama continues to remind us that ours is a nation bounded by a common creed and that our American values of equality, fairness, and justice should be available to all, not just a fortunate few. Far too long people and communities of color continue to be left behind when we discuss equality, fairness, and justice.

In the 48 years since his death, while we have made some strides in confronting injustices and ending unequal treatment, there is still work to be done. Our Nation is still plagued by the vestiges of segregation and unequal laws and policies, evident today in Flint, Michigan, and its lack of clean drinking water; in it being harder, not easier, to exercise the constitutional right to vote through voter disenfranchisement; Black men being killed in Ferguson, Baltimore, Chicago, and my State of Ohio; inequities in health care, poverty, and in our failing schools.

But, Mr. Speaker, the time is now for us to work together to protect the most at risk among us, to defend the foundation of our democracy, and to expand opportunity for all people.

However, Republican leadership fails to act and refuses to bring up Voting Rights Advancement Act, a bipartisan piece of legislation, for an up-or-down vote.

Tonight, Mr. Speaker, we will hear from our Congressional Black Caucus colleagues on the state of our Union and where we go from here. I welcome the dialogue and the debate.

Mr. Speaker, it is now my honor and privilege to yield to Congresswoman BARBARA LEE from the 13th District of California. We know her as a fearless advocate, fighting to eliminate poverty. We know her as someone who has a history of representing not only the people of her district but the people of America. I have had the opportunity to witness this firsthand, as I serve on her committee when she fights to end the War on Poverty. It is my honor to ask Congresswoman BARBARA LEE to bring her message to us tonight.

Ms. LEE. Let me first thank Congresswoman BEATTY for her very kind and humbling remarks, but also for her tremendous leadership on so many issues, not only since she has been here in Congress, but before she came representing her constituents, and really looking out for, speaking out for, and working for the most vulnerable in our society.

I am really proud of what she is doing with the Congressional Black Caucus, also Congressman JEFFRIES for continuing to organize these important sessions really to beat the drum and to allow our country to understand what the issues are that the Congressional Black Caucus continues to work on because if, in fact, we address those issues, as you know, that the most vulnerable are dealing with each and every day, we will strengthen America, and so our country will be stronger. I thank both of them for making sure that we are doing that.

We celebrate tonight the start of Black History Month, but I would like to reflect quickly again what we are doing tonight on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream of true democracy.

In his famous speech, ''I Have a Dream,'' let me just quote here what he asked the American people to do. He said:

''To make real the promises of democracy. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice.

''Now is the time to open the doors of opportunity to all God's children.

''Now is the time to lift our Nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood.'' Of course and sisterhood.

As I think about his powerful words going into Black History Month and his challenge for America to live up to her highest ideals, we must reflect on how far we have come and where we need to go.

Now, of course, the right to vote is the bedrock of our democracy, which Dr. King reminded us of when he said: ''Give us the ballot, and we will fill our legislative halls with men and women of goodwill.'' In his honor, we must pass the Voting Rights Advancement Act, H.R. 2867, introduced by a great woman, a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congresswoman TERRI SEWELL.

In 1967 Dr. King explained the underlying nature of the challenges facing our country in his book ''Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos Or Community?'' he talked about these triple evils. He wrote about poverty, racism, and war. He said they are the forms of violence that exist in a vicious cycle in our country. He says: ''They are interrelated, all-inclusive, and stand as barriers to our living in the beloved community. When we work to remedy one evil, we affect all evils.''

So we must come together as never before to address these issues that infect our communities in order for our Nation to move beyond the quicksands of racial and economic injustice.

Of course, the first of these evils is poverty, a harsh reality lived every day by more than 46 million Americans. Our Joint Economic Committee report, championed by Congresswoman MALONEY and the Congressional Black Caucus, demonstrated and showed that African Americans are disproportionately affected by the scourge of poverty. The poverty rate in our community is 27 percent. One in three African American kids live in poverty. One in five kids in the entire country live in poverty. Poverty rates throughout our country are much too high for everyone, and we know how to eliminate poverty.

Our assistant leader, a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, a great human being who has worked so hard to eliminate poverty for so many years has come up with a formula that would target resources to those rural and urban communities with the highest rates of persistent poverty.

We have our Half in Ten Act, which establishes a national strategy to cut poverty in half over the next decade. That is more than 22 million Americans lifted into the middle class in just 10 years by coordinating local, State, and Federal anti-poverty programs.

Likewise, our Pathways Out of Poverty Act is a comprehensive anti-poverty bill that starts by creating good-paying jobs while redoubling our investments in proven programs that empower families to build pathways out of poverty into the middle class.

Of course, Dr. King mentioned the second evil, which is racism. While racial barriers and biases are endemic through our society, they are very and most apparent in our broken criminal justice system. It is high time that we work to fix our criminal justice system that far too often fails African Americans. Yes, Black lives matter.

So today in America, an African American is killed by a security officer, police officer, or self-proclaimed vigilante every 28 hours. That is nearly once a day. One in three Black men can plan to spend at least some part of their life behind bars, and men of color make up 70 percent of the U.S. prison population. Let me say that again. Seventy percent of the U.S. prison population are men of color. That is simply outrageous.

Now, we have ended legal segregation. Our first African American President is serving his second term in the White House. Our Attorney General, Loretta Lynch, serves as our first African American female Attorney General. But so much must be done to achieve the dream of liberty and justice for all.

Dr. King told us over and over again that we live in two Americas. This was in 1967, in one of his speeches. The Kerner Commission report still describes American society today. We have got to really look at our history and acknowledge and honor the legacy of those who really brought us this far. But when you look at the statistics and what is taking place now in communities of color and the African American community, it just shows us what we have to do. We have a long way to go.

Dr. King finally spoke of war. He talked about the fact that our Nation continues to be involved in endless wars, and communities are suffering the costs. The Pentagon consumes 60 percent of discretionary spending compared to 11 percent that we spend on education, job creation, and resources to help our young people live the life that they so deserve in terms of being educated and providing workforce training, housing, health care, all the opportunities that are the American opportunities to allow us to live the American Dream.

Congresswoman BEATTY and Congressman JEFFRIES, I just want to thank you for arranging the time for us to talk tonight. We have real solutions. You have real solutions. Every member of the Congressional Black Caucus has real solutions to end poverty, to end racism, and to end war.

During Black History Month, we need to recommit ourselves to all of the solutions that members of the Congressional Black Caucus, and Members of this body as a whole, have if the political will were there so we can honor the legacy of those who came before us during Black History Month. By honoring them, we say we are going to pick up that mantle and really address these triple evils once and for all.

Mrs. BEATTY. Thank you so much, Congresswoman LEE, for reminding us of the work we have to do to strengthen our America and for giving us those facts that clearly point out the barriers that we have and also the disparities when you look at 70 percent of our men being incarcerated, yet we don't make up 70 percent of the population.

Thank you for reminding us of all the work and the words of Martin Luther King because you are so right. To sum it up in his words: injustice anywhere is an injustice everywhere.

Thank you. We will continue that work.

Mr. Speaker, it is now my honor and privilege to yield to Congresswoman KAREN BASS from the 37th District of California. It is a great honor for me because she is certainly not only a leader, but an advocate domestically and globally for young girls. As a matter of fact, when I think of her work across this Nation in foster care, I call her the Sojourner Truth of foster care.

When I think of her leadership, it is important for me to remind folks that she was the first African American female to be Speaker of the House of the great State of California. Today it is indeed my honor to yield to Congresswoman BASS.

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congresswoman BEATTY. I want to congratulate her for her leadership that she has displayed since day one of coming to the House of Representatives, and knowing of her leadership in the State of Ohio, serving as the leader of the legislature in Ohio.

I want to acknowledge my colleague HAKEEM JEFFRIES. I have always appreciated his leadership in the committees as well as his leadership within the House. I am glad that he is very much a part of our Caucus.

I know our theme today is: ''The State of Our Union: Have We Achieved Dr. King's Dream?'' I have to say that the state of our union is a mixed bag. Have we achieved Dr. King's dream? As a nation, we haven't, but if we look at the success of individuals, many individuals have achieved remarkable levels of success.

While the success of individuals should rightfully be celebrated, until the richest nation on the planet in the history of the world has figured out how to address poverty, income inequality, and provide opportunity for everyone to succeed in our Nation, Dr. King's dream is a dream deferred.

Dr. King would have been so proud to have been at the inauguration of the first African American President, but he would have been horrified to see a man achieve that level of success, becoming the most powerful man in the world, and still be subjected to doubters who ask to see his birth certificate, questioning if he was actually an American, obviously code for ''he might be the President, but he is still not one of us''; asking to see his college transcripts, questioning if his academic success was legitimate.

Dr. King would be horrified to learn the number of hate groups. White supremacist organizations exploded after the election of the first African American President of the United States. He would have been shocked to hear that leaders in our country actually publicly stated that they would do everything they could, including hurting the national economy, to ensure that the Nation's first African American President did not serve a second term.

□ 1945

Dr. King would have been overjoyed when this President was reelected to a second term, so that no one could say the first time was an aberration. Dr. King would have been so proud of the millions of people who withstood attempts to block their right to vote and to know that thousands were willing to stand for hours to make sure they voted and reelected President Obama.

Dr. King would have celebrated the creation of a program to provide health coverage for the majority of people in the Nation. He would have celebrated the fact that this was accomplished in the first term of President Obama's administration.

Dr. King would have celebrated the fact that when the law was signed by President Obama, for the first time, insurance companies could no longer refuse to provide coverage for people if they had an illness or a preexisting condition.

Just think for a minute. Prior to the Affordable Care Act, insurance companies excluded you from coverage if you had a preexisting condition. There were examples of babies born prematurely that were excluded from coverage because their premature birth and the associated complications were considered a preexisting condition.

And, frankly, almost everyone after a certain age has one preexisting condition or another—hypertension, high cholesterol, et cetera. Prior to passage of healthcare reform, aging, essentially, was a reason to exclude individuals from coverage.

While Dr. King would have celebrated this victory, he would have been

shocked to know Congress has voted over 60 times to take health care away from people and to reverse this advance. If the Affordable Care Act was repealed, then the parents of the premature baby and the adult over 60 with high blood pressure would not have health care.

On another subject, Dr. King would wonder: How on Earth did his country end up incarcerating more people than any other nation in the world? And how is it that the majority of people incarcerated in the United States are poor and are people of color?

As a man of faith, as a teacher of the Bible, he would wonder what happened to the concept of redemption in our society. How did we become a society that punished people forever? What happened to the belief that, if you offended society and then paid your debt to society, you were expected and accepted to reenter society with your full rights?

How did we evolve into a nation that basically said we will punish you for your entire life? Because even though 85 percent of people incarcerated are eventually released, we can strip away your right to vote. You cannot live in public housing; and if your family lives in public housing, then you can't go home.

If you were in prison and you owed child support, well, we just kept the clock running on what you owed even though you were in prison and, of course, could not work to pay child support. You owed the money anyway.

And, of course, when you were released, you are then behind in child support. And because you are behind because you could not work while incarcerated, we will not give you a driver's license. And if you are from Los Angeles and cannot drive, you can forget about having a decent-paying job, because those jobs certainly don't exist in your neighborhood.

Furthermore, if you don't find a job, we just might violate your parole and put you back in prison, because a condition of your parole is that you have a job. But then, since you are a felon, we will not allow you to work anyway.

In California, until we changed the law, there were 56 occupations you could not participate in if you were a felon. One of those occupations we even trained you for while you were in prison. We have a school that trains prisoners to be barbers. But when you were released, we didn't allow ex-offenders to have a license in the very occupation we trained you for—until we changed the law.

I think Dr. King would be thoroughly confused by the contradictions he would see in America today. We have amazingly successful individuals, thousands of African Americans and other people of color in elected office or in other major positions of authority. They are CEOs of companies, astronauts, athletes, college presidents, entertainers on every level, actors, producers, directors.

In every area in society, there are successful individuals. There are 48 African American Members of Congress. The year before his death, there were only five African Americans in Congress.

But Dr. King would wonder what is holding our Nation back from making sure every American has access to the American Dream. With all the technological advances, advances in science and education, how can it be that people are hungry in America, that too many children continue to go to poor, segregated schools, and that there are homeless encampments that exist in most major cities?

Although his dream for our Nation is only partially realized, I believe now it is our responsibility to continue the work and to continue the struggle until there is no such thing as homelessness in the richest nation on the planet, until all children have access to a 21st century education, until poverty is eliminated and the safety net is strong enough that no one in our Nation slips through the cracks.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, thank you again to Congresswoman KAREN BASS for reminding us of all the great riches that we have in this society, but also for putting on the forefront that our work is not finished. There is hope. Because we have learned that through having a President who stands on the shoulders of another great man—Martin Luther King.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed my honor and privilege to yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. RICHMOND), who hails from the Second District of Louisiana. He is someone who is fearless and not afraid to speak up, but he doesn't speak in vain. He speaks with a platform—whether that platform is to discuss reforming our broken prison system, whether it is to talk about HBCUs, or whether it is to be a role model—and he knows a lot about that because he is a natural leader. When he took office in the State legislature, he was one of the youngest legislators to ever serve.

So it is indeed my honor to call Congressman CEDRIC RICHMOND a colleague and friend.

Mr. RICHMOND. I want to thank the gentlelady and scholar for yielding to me and putting on this series tonight.

Mr. Speaker, just a few weeks ago, on January 12, right here in this Chamber, President Obama proudly declared to the citizens of the United States that the state of our Union is strong. With that, I agree. However, tonight, just as I did in New Orleans on this holiday, I must stand here and give the state of the dream address.

So, today, I stand in this Chamber and report to the world that the state of the dream is in disrepair. It is in disrepair because of neglect by some and intentional harms by others.

Let me first just state what I believe his dream to be. This is in his own words. In accepting the Nobel Peace Prize, Dr. King said: ''I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality, and freedom for their spirits.''

So why do I say that dream is in disrepair? Well, inadequate funding and misguided policies stand as a bar to many kids of color from getting a quality education, just like Bull Connor stood in the schoolhouse doors during the civil rights movement.

Why do I say the dream is in disrepair? Because too many African American children have better access to guns and drugs than textbooks and computers. Far too many of them choose guns and drugs.

Why do I say the dream is in disrepair? Because the Supreme Court rolled back the protections for minority voting rights.

Why do I say the dream is in disrepair? Because in a Supreme Court hearing on minority admission policies to colleges and universities, one of our Supreme Court Justices demonstrated his bias, his ignorance, and his lack of understanding by trying to justify why Blacks should go to lesser colleges and universities.

Why is the dream in disrepair? Because the Black Supreme Court Justice sat there and said nothing. Well, if I were in college and I were playing Spades, I would call him a ''possible,'' because you can't count on him to hold up when the game starts.

Why do I also say the dream is in disrepair? Because big Wall Street executives can steel millions and never get charged and held accountable while young Black kids who shoplift get prosecuted and fill up our jails and our prisons and create what we call the prison industrial enterprise.

Some ask: Why do the poor and uneducated continue to steal and cheat? Well, the answer is simple: Because the rich and educated keep showing them how.

So, as we stand here this month and celebrate Black History Month, we will not only describe some of the problems, but we will go into some of the solutions that have been tested over time.

Let me just say that Dr. King and the generation before us did a great job of making this dream a reality through sacrifice, hard work, and commitment, but somewhere in my generation, we fell off from that sacrifice and determination.

Far too many of us are letting reality shows and music videos give our children their misguided sense of morals. Too many of our African American and White middle-class families who have achieved the dream are excited that they are there, but they are telling the rest of the world to get it the best they can.

The dream can be realized when everyone realizes that you are not going to help minority communities in spite of the minority communities, but we are going to bring them to the table and let them be a co-participant in drafting their accomplishments.

So, where do we go from here? We continue to invest in proven leaders and proven ways out of poverty and ways to get ahead, like education. We have to invest in the Pell grants and our Historically Black Colleges and Universities because we know that education is the best way out of poverty.

We have to invest in summer jobs so that kids in urban areas and impoverished communities can get exposure to a different way of life so that they can help themselves. We know that a summer job reduces the dropout rate by 50 percent.

What else can we do? We can invest in job training. We can invest in disadvantaged businesses. We can do a number of things. And the good part about it is we have a Congressional Black Caucus that can stand here and introduce legislation if the other side would meet us halfway.

So, the state of our union will continue to be strong. The state of the dream will become a reality when people join hands together to make sure that the least of us have every opportunity in the world.

I will tell you that the dream was strong. The dream is the same dream that allowed my mother, who is from the poorest place in the country, 1 of 15 children, to achieve her college degree and raise two sons who went off to Morehouse. So the dream is real when I, as the son of a single mother, can go to Morehouse, Tulane Law School, and the Harvard School of Government. That is the dream.

So I stand here today and just ask that we do what Booker T. Washington said. We may be as separate as our fingers, but we are as whole as the hand. This body has an obligation to come together as the hand and make sure that we give every kid from every place in this country the opportunity to succeed.

Mrs. BEATTY. I thank Congressman RICHMOND for reminding us that you bring hope. Your experience shows that there is opportunity. Because certainly, we know that there are fewer Black students graduating from high school. Sixteen percent of Blacks drop out, compared to 8 percent of our White counterparts.

Mr. Speaker, can you tell me how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman has 30 minutes remaining.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, it is now my honor and privilege to yield to my colleague from the 10th District of New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE). He is someone who is a great example of a committed public servant. He is someone who puts others before himself. When you want to call on him, he is someone that will sit and quietly listen to you, and then a few minutes later he will give you probably one of the most profound answers that one could look for. I am proud to not only call him my colleague, but I am also proud to call him my classmate.

It is my honor to ask Congressman DONALD PAYNE to bring his reflections.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by thanking my classmates, Congresswoman JOYCE BEATTY and Congressman HAKEEM JEFFRIES, for anchoring these important Special Order hours for the Congressional Black Caucus.

Since her arrival here in Congress, Congresswoman BEATTY has demonstrated why she was a leader in Ohio, and she has become a great leader in the House of Representatives.

□ 2000

Mr. Speaker, Dr. King envisioned for this Nation a future of vast potential, a future where every man and woman and child would have the opportunity to get ahead, free from the constraints of injustice and intolerance.

What we see happening across our country shows how far we still have to go to achieve Dr. King's dream. From gun violence to racial wealth gaps, from lack of diversity to persistent poverty, there are still critical issues affecting our communities that must be addressed.

In 2015, there were at least 76 gun deaths in my district in New Jersey, the Tenth Congressional District. One-third of all the gun deaths in New Jersey last year happened in my district.

If we don't do something to tackle this epidemic, then we are failing our children. We are failing the next generation, to give them the hope and the possibilities of being a positive part of this community, such as we saw in Congressman CEDRIC RICHMOND.

In my district, African Americans face unemployment rates nearly triple that of White workers. Generations of African American workers are being left behind, without a fair shot at success. The economic prosperity and the American Dream are on hold for many African American communities.

Instead of working to address these challenges facing our communities, Republicans continue their assault on women's health by trying to defund Planned Parenthood.

On the other hand, Democrats are working on bold, aggressive action that will have an immediate impact on the challenges facing African Americans.

I have tried to do my part here in Congress. My Safer Neighborhoods Gun Buyback Act would create a voluntary Federal gun buyback program to keep guns out of the wrong hands. That is just one measure that we have to look at.

But in talking about Dr. King's dream, it reminds me of A Tale of Two Cities. This is the best of times and the worst of times.

Yes, we have seen an African American rise to the pinnacle of success in this country in public service in President Barack Obama. Dr. King would be very proud of that.

But he would be upset to see the other part, the despair that our communities are in without the opportunities to raise their children as other communities do.

Dr. King was about equal opportunity for every man and woman. He discussed problems in Appalachia, he discussed problems in the South, and he discussed problems in the North.

So, yes, his main focus was the African American community. But injustice somewhere is injustice anywhere, and he lived that motto. He would be happy for some reasons, but in other areas he would be very disappointed.

So it is our job to continue to push towards that dream, and we here in the Congressional Black Caucus are committed to pushing forward to see his dream realized.

Mrs. BEATTY. Thank you, Congressman PAYNE, for bringing us those words of wisdom and reminding us of the epidemics that face us, the failures that we have experienced, but leaving us with the hope of pushing forward and helping to realize Martin Luther King's dream.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed my honor now to yield to the freshman of our group, someone who may be a freshman by our description, but someone who is not a stranger.

Whether it is advocating for jobs for veterans, whether it is looking at economic development and opportunities for those who are in struggling economies, she comes to us as a lawyer, she comes to us as a mother and a public servant.

She is someone who stands tall in her words of wisdom and someone's voice that we have learned to listen to.

She hails to us as the Delegate from the Virgin Islands. Join me in welcoming Congresswoman STACY PLASKETT for her words of wisdom.

Ms. PLASKETT. Thank you so much for allowing me this opportunity to be here with my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I am so humbled and honored to be with the gentlewoman from Ohio, JOYCE BEATTY, who is an example to us freshmen and who fights, along with the gentleman of New York, HAKEEM JEFFRIES, not just for the people of their district and not just for African Americans, but for all Americans, because that is what we are all here in this Congress to do.

By pointing out the inequalities, it is not to cast aspersions on all of America, but to make us to be better people than what we are today.

When Dr. King so eloquently delivered his famous ''I Have a Dream'' speech 50 years ago, he did so with every hope and expectation that that Nation would rise up and live out the true meaning of that creed. He hoped that the tenet all men are created equal would, in fact, one day be a truth held self-evident.

We cannot allow simply moving past the glaring bigotries of Jim Crow, however, to be a benchmark for success. Doing so would ignore the more subtle bigotries that continue today.

These subtle bigotries are, in fact, as deeply rooted and extreme in their effect as those glaring bigotries Dr. King and so many others fought vigorously and valiantly to overcome.

We are still achieving the dream. Today it is not just social injustice, but also extreme inequality that constrains economic mobility for the African American community and, therefore, for all of America.

Whether it is State-sanctioned attempts to roll back voting rights in Alabama, the outright denial of equal voting rights to citizens living in the Virgin Islands and other territories, or the years of neglect that have led to the poisoning of residents in Flint, Michigan, the persistent wealth and opportunity divide in this country is rooted in the legacy of racial discrimination dating back to Reconstruction and to slavery, indeed.

Although we have achieved much since the days of separate, but equal, there are still structural barriers to achieving the American Dream for too many minority families in this country.

There is racial disparity in nearly every index of the American Dream, and those disparities place families of color further behind in their plight to achieving the dream.

A recent study by the Corporation for Enterprise Development shows that families of color are two times more likely to live below the Federal poverty level, almost two times more likely to lack liquid savings, and are significantly more likely to have subprime credit scores.

A lack of liquid savings among families of color often lends to further disparity and wealth loss, as evidenced by the proportion of student debt by race and ethnicity.

African American college students rely more on student loans to pay for college than do other racial groups and are less likely to pay off the debt, according to a report by the Wisconsin HOPE Lab.

While unemployment in this country has fallen to 5 percent, African American communities like my home district of the U.S. Virgin Islands continue to experience double-digit unemployment rates.

Many of these communities of color have experienced decades of systematic divestment of funding and resources that can only serve to widen the wealth and opportunity gap.

That is benign neglect, a benign neglect that has led to failing public and alternative education systems, crumbling infrastructure, and, in some cases, the slide to bankruptcy, bankruptcy not just due to mismanagement and corruption, which is the convenient answer, but a systematic lack of investment, support, and adequate funding, which causes places like Detroit, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands to mortgage their children's futures in bonds to make ends meet.

African Americans make up 13 percent of the population, but have only 2.7 percent of total wealth.

This Congress has within its power to reverse the years of benign neglect to these communities through supporting legislation to invest in infrastructure and education through fighting against voter suppression efforts and supporting student loans and other finance reforms.

Closing the wealth and opportunity gap should not be a dream in post-racial America. It is the responsibility of this Congress to uphold the principles to which we were founded, to not only adhere to those powerful words that preamble our Constitution, but also to provide for the general welfare and ensure that justice, liberty, and prosperity are afforded to all and not just some.

Mrs. BEATTY. Thank you to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands. Let me just say thank you for making us have a better understanding that we cannot do this alone and we have so much more work to do.

Mr. Speaker, tonight's Special Orders hour hopefully will share with this institution the amount of work that we have yet to do. But I believe in hope and opportunity for all.

So when I listen to the great legacy that those who have come before us, whether that is Dr. Martin Luther King, whether that is Rosa Parks, we have members of this Congressional Black Caucus who stand united to provide opportunities for all.

We are often referred to as the conscience of the Congress. There is a reason for that: Because we are the voice of the voiceless.

And when I think of voices, I think of my co-anchor. I think of a man who came as my classmate, someone stellar, someone who is a scholar and a profound lawyer, someone who stands tall in stature and in his words, someone that I actually enjoy sitting and listening to as he so often brings the message.

It is my honor to yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) to talk to us about the state of our union, Dr. King's dream, and African Americans in this great Nation.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentlewoman from Ohio, Representative BEATTY, my good friend, for those very kind words and, of course, for her tremendous leadership in anchoring and shepherding us here this evening in the same manner that she has done since her arrival here in the House of Representatives, always eloquent, erudite, and effervescent.

We appreciate that unique and tremendous combination of skill and ability that you bring to the people that you represent so ably in Columbus, Ohio, and, of course, really, on behalf of America as you stand here anchoring this Congressional Black Caucus Special Orders hour.

I look forward to continuing to work together throughout the year as we endeavor to speak truth to power here on the floor of the House of Representatives and articulate issues of significance and importance to African Americans in the United States of America and to all of America.

Earlier today I made the observation that this is the first day of Black History Month. Essentially, black history is American history. The two are forever intertwined. That is why the subject matter of this special order is of particular importance.

Dr. King once made the observation that the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.

□ 2015

I think what Dr. King was saying is that in this world you have got some good folks and you have got some bad actors. But in order for justice to prevail, what you essentially need is a fair amount of the good folks to come together, sacrifice, work hard, and dedicate themselves to the cause of social change, and at the end of the day justice will prevail.

Make no mistake that in the United States of America, of course, it has been a long and complicated march. We certainly have come a long way, but we still have a long way to go. During the founding of the Republic back in 1776, in the DNA of this great country was embedded the principles of liberty and justice for all. It was a great document and a great start. Embedded in the DNA of this country was fairness, equality, and opportunity for everyone. But there was a genetic defect called chattel slavery that was also attendant to our birth.

If you are going to have any discussion about where we are in America today, you have got to recognize there was a genetic defect that has impacted the arc of the African American community here in America and the American story, and that genetic defect of chattel slavery stayed with us, of course, until the war ended in 1865. Millions of African American slaves were subjugated. It was one of the worst crimes ever perpetrated in the history of humanity. It finally ended in 1865 with the adoption of the 13th Amendment. Of course, we know that the 14th Amendment and the 15th Amendment followed, equal protection under the law for everyone, 14th Amendment, and the 15th Amendment was designed to guarantee the right to vote. The so-called Reconstruction period lasted until the middle of the 1870s, but it was largely abandoned thereafter.

The African Americans, of course, were given a raw, bad deal. How can you cure the genetic defect of chattel slavery with three constitutional amendments without ever really forcefully implementing them and within a decade or so abandoning the principles inherent in those constitutional amendments? In place we received the Black Codes, Jim Crow, segregation, and an intense lynching campaign unleashed on African Americans in the South, in the Midwest, in the far West, and other parts of the United States of America. So we went from chattel slavery, a brief period of Reconstruction, then you give us Jim Crow.

So we dealt with Jim Crow which was at least in principle abolished on paper

when the Supreme Court makes the decision in Brown v. Board of Education that separate but equal was just a farce. It was a joke. It wasn't real. So the Supreme Court exposes that, but then says, go ahead and implement it with all deliberate speed. Which basically meant don't really implement it with any urgency, any immediacy, any impactful fashion, just take your time and do it at your own pace.

So as we are trying to deal with Jim Crow, then you have, of course, Dr. King and leaders of the civil rights movement, JOHN LEWIS, whom Congresswoman BEATTY and I are so privileged to serve with, A. Philip Randolph, Roy Wilkins, James Farmer, and so many others. The civil rights movement deals with the lingering effects of our original genetic defect of chattel slavery replaced by Jim Crow.

Then in the 1960s, we get the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the 1965 Voting Rights Act, the 1968 Fair Housing Act, Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty, and efforts to try to finally correct the injustices that have been race based here in America. Like Reconstruction, which lasted for a little over a decade, we get this period of dramatic social change, mainly in the early and mid-1960s that is quickly abandoned and taken advantage of by Richard Nixon in 1968 with the Southern strategy White backlash, particularly in the Deep South, compounded in 1971 when President Richard Nixon makes the statement that drug abuse is public enemy number one. Essentially, the War on Drugs ushered in an era of mass incarceration.

When President Nixon made that statement, there were less than 350,000 people incarcerated in America. Today, 40-plus years later, after the War on Drugs, so called, was started, 2.3 million people, more than 1 million African American men, disproportionately and adversely impacting communities of color and as has been mentioned earlier, incarcerate more people in America than any other country in the world, a country where we over-incarcerate and under educate.

We have made a lot of progress in America. African Americans as a collective community really haven't been given any room to breathe because we have gone from chattel slavery—the original birth defect in this great Republic—to Jim Crow, to mass incarceration with brief periods of Reconstruction and civil rights era mixed in between. And you wonder why we are in the situation that we are in right now.

We have made a lot of progress. Obviously the fact that Barack Obama is sitting at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue is a significant development, but as Dr. King says, he talked about an arc, which means that similar to what Abraham Lincoln once said, that we have to continue a march toward a more perfect Union, the Congressional Black Caucus with leadership from dynamic representatives like JOYCE BEATTY, have put forth a series of things to benefit not just the African American community, but all communities, to help bring the promise of American democracy to life.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back to my good friend, Representative BEATTY.

Mrs. BEATTY. Thank you so much to my colleague. As I stood here and I listened to you walk us through that rich history, it reminded me of all of the bad actors that caused many of those bad things. I reflect on someone in my family being a part of that chattel slavery as a slave, I think about Jim Crow, and I think about the things that my grandmother was asked to do when she had walked far just to try to vote and was asked to recite things that probably the people asking her could not have done.

Then when I think about all of those social reforms and all the things that happened 50 and 55 years ago, it made me think, Congressman JEFFRIES, when we think about Martin Luther King and his dream, so often people say, ''What would he think today?'' But I guess for me the question is a little different that I would like to discuss with you. Do you think history is repeating itself?

As I listened to you talk about slavery, and today when I go into some parts of my community with the War on Drugs I have had Black men say to me that they feel like they are living during a time of slavery. When I talk to young, single moms who are fighting for their own existence or to feed their children, they feel that they are held captive by poverty.

So are we looking at still bad actors, bad actors in the Chambers that I stand in, bad actors who want to take away SNAP, bad actors who don't want to give us a voting rights bill, bad actors that don't want to ban the box?

What do you think? Are we seeing history repeat itself?

Mr. JEFFRIES. It is a great question. Unfortunately sort of the arc of history here in this great country of ours is that whenever progress has been made it has been followed by a backlash. Progress was made with the Reconstruction amendments. It was followed by a backlash that gave us Jim Crow, the Black Codes, and an explosion of lynching in the South. Progress, of course, was made in the 1960s with the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act, the Fair Housing Act immediately followed by Richard Nixon's Southern strategy, and a backlash against things like affirmative action which had barely been put into motion and a rollback of the War on Poverty which was designed to help African Americans and all Americans of every race.

Then, of course, many thought that we perhaps had reached a post-racial America in the aftermath of the election of President Barack Obama, but we know, of course, that that is not the case sadly.

I am hopeful, however, that many of my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, Conservatives and Progressives who have come together, folks like RAUL LABRADOR, TREY GOWDY, and JASON CHAFFETZ—good friends of mine on the other side of the aisle—recognize the importance of dealing with mass incarceration for America.

Here are a few statistics that I think we need to be concerned about as it relates to your question. African Americans serve virtually as much time in prison for a nonviolent drug offense, approximately 58 months, as White Americans do for a violent criminal offense, 62 months. Whites in America statistically use drugs five times as often as African Americans, yet African Americans are sent to prison for drug offenses at 10 times the rate of White Americans.

Lastly, African Americans represent 83 percent of crack cocaine Federal defendants, but only 28 percent of users—83 percent are defendants, 28 percent are users; whereas, White Americans represent 5.8 percent of Federal defendants but 62 percent of users.

Something is wrong. Justice is not colorblind in America. So hopefully we will find the ability to come together to deal with the overall broken criminal justice system and certainly as part of that rectify some of the racial disparities that exist.

Mrs. BEATTY. Thank you so much.

Let me just end by saying, Mr. Speaker, what you have witnessed tonight is that our past that we have talked about is our experience, our present is our responsibility, and our future is our hope.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King's vision of ending inequality through providing jobs, justice, and peace to all Americans is a vision that many have fought and died to make a reality. As the Civil Rights Movement battled against discrimination and inequality in the 1960's, I adopted Dr. King's vision of jobs, justice, and peace when I ran for Congress in 1964. I remember the Jim Crow era, poll taxes, and institutionalized segregation when I arrived in Congress. Yet, for all of these institutional scars and discriminatory impediments, the work we did in Congress aided in fulfilling the promises of equality enshrined in our Constitution. After a historic effort, the Civil Rights Act was passed, the Voting Rights Act was adopted, and a new era of federal protections around equality was ushered in the 20th Century.

Some fifty years later, this era has yet to be fully realized. While the initial challenges of recognizing and upholding civil rights have been met, many of the original problems persist, but in an evolved form. Fifty plus years later, the American people confront issues of voter suppression, gender and sexual orientation discrimination. Many communities feel under siege from those sworn to protect their liberty. Hate crimes and religious intolerance are on the rise as reported nightly on the

news. And women contend with a pay inequity hampering their standing with men in the workplace.

In spite of all of these shortcomings, strides have been made: reauthorizing the Voting Rights Act in 2006; the passage of legislation expanding access to healthcare; the introduction of legislation combating voter caging and deceptive practices, and the passage of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, signed into law by the first African-American President of the United States, himself emblematic of civil rights progress.

These issues were all, at one point in time, deemed radical. Women's suffrage, racial equality, and now gay and lesbian rights: for each, the civil rights movement has expanded until true justice is achieved. Many problems persist and more are certain to arrive, but through renewed determination to tackle these deep-seated problems, we can one day live up to the beloved community envision by Dr. King.

While our struggle for equality stems from being afforded the basic human rights associated with a free society, the ideal of achieving economic justice, with employment for all who seek it, remains out of reach for many. The aftermath of the financial crisis has brought crippling unemployment, wage stagnation, and rising income inequality. Yet, the Great Recession has only exacerbated a decades-long decline in the fortunes of the working and middle classes. As finances continue to deteriorate, basic social and public services have often been the first to go.

In the realm of healthcare, a basic safety net was only recently afforded to the underserved in the United States with passage of the Affordable Care Act, yet millions of low-income and unemployed individuals remain uninsured. Housing remains a continued blight, as mass-foreclosures following the aftermath of the Great Recession tear apart communities and destabilizes families.

Even after fifty years of promoting Dr. King's cause for peace, our country is enmeshed in gun violence, which tragically produced the shootings in Newtown, Aurora, Tucson, and Wisconsin, and daily on the streets of America's most populated cities. These horrific occurrences are unacceptable for our nation, which is why catapulting peace to the forefront of our nation's agenda will save lives and protect our most vital right under the Constitution: life. I am hopeful that by strengthening our gun laws we can remove military style weapons out of our communities, prohibit the sale of deadly gun clips, and close loopholes on the sale of guns.

Our rate of incarceration and length of sentences are unjust and unsustainable. The United States incarcerates 25 percent of the world's prisoners, while we have only five percent of the world's population. And we disproportionately prosecute and incarcerate African Americans more than any other race. This is the result of what President Obama has called a ''huge explosion'' in our incarceration rates, with 500,000 people imprisoned in America in 1980 growing to 2.2 million today. We must change our prosecution policies and sentencing laws to address this crisis, and I am working with my colleagues to do that.

The profiling of racial and religious minorities is also a terrible reality that threatens peace in our nation. Profiling is an archaic form of discrimination that subjects individuals to criminal indictments or investigations based on their race or religion. Although profiling cannot be found in any form of written law, the practice is real in America and threatens the trust and peace that is essential in the relationship between citizens and their law enforcement. Our nation's leaders can work to pass legislation, such as the End Racial Profiling Act, to prohibit this practice in any law enforcement agency and the Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act to provide real standards for the operation of police departments.

As we press forward to address inequality in the 21st Century, the outstanding question is whether or not Congress will rise to tackle these issues. The American people have already witnessed how politics can transform our legislative body into a body producing nothing but dysfunction. However, the erosion of Congress's focus on protecting civil rights and civil liberties can be reversed.

This Congress has the opportunity to answer these present injustices by assuming the unwavering commitment to jobs, justice, and peace that was displayed so valiantly by Dr. Martin Luther King. Ending inequality in America is a battle that can be won, and although the enemy is still the same, our approach in the 21st century must not lack the strength and courage of those who have fought so bravely before us.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this February we recognize and celebrate the 39th commemoration of Black History Month.

This month we celebrate the contributions of African Americans to the history of our great nation, and pay tribute to trailblazers, pioneers, heroes, and leaders like Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, U.S. Senator Blanche Kelso Bruce, U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, U.S. Congressman Mickey Leland, Astronauts Dr. Guion Stewart Bluford Jr. and Mae C. Jemison, Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, James Baldwin, Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Gwendolyn Brooks just to name a few of the countless number of well-known and unsung heroes whose contributions have helped our nation become a more perfect union.

The history of the United States has been marked by the great contributions of African American activists, leaders, writers, and artists.

As a member of Congress, I know that I stand on the shoulders of giants whose struggles and triumphs made it possible for me to stand here today and continue the fight for equality, justice, and progress for all, regardless of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation.

The greatest of these giants to me are Mrs. Ivalita ''Ivy'' Jackson, a vocational nurse, and Mr. Ezra A. Jackson, one of the first African-Americans to succeed in the comic book publishing business.

They were my beloved parents and they taught me the value of education, hard work, discipline, perseverance, and caring for others.

And I am continually inspired by Dr. Elwyn Lee, my husband and the first tenured African American law professor at the University of Houston.

Mr. Speaker, I particularly wish to acknowledge the contributions of African American veterans in defending from foreign aggressors and who by their courageous examples helped transform our nation from a segregated society to a nation committed to the never ending challenge of perfecting our union.

Last year about this time, I was honored to join my colleagues, Congressmen JOHN LEWIS and Congressman CHARLES RANGEL, a Korean War veteran, in paying tribute to surviving members of the Tuskegee Airmen and the 555th Parachute Infantry, the famed ''Triple Nickels'' at a moving ceremony sponsored by the U.S. Army commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

The success of the Tuskegee Airmen in escorting bombers during World War II—achieving one of the lowest loss records of all the escort fighter groups, and being in constant demand for their services by the allied bomber units—is a record unmatched by any other fighter group.

So impressive and astounding were the feats of the Tuskegee Airmen that in 1948 they persuaded President Harry Truman to issue his famous Executive Order No. 9981, which directed equality of treatment and opportunity in all of the United States Armed Forces and led to the end of racial segregation in the U.S. military forces.

It is a source of enormous and enduring pride that my father-in-law, Phillip Ferguson Lee, was one of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Clearly, what began as an experiment to determine whether ''colored'' soldiers were capable of operating expensive and complex combat aircraft ended as an unqualified success based on the experience of the Tuskegee Airmen, whose record included 261 aircraft destroyed, 148 aircraft damaged, 15,553 combat sorties and 1,578 missions over Italy and North Africa.

They also destroyed or damaged over 950 units of ground transportation and escorted more than 200 bombing missions. They proved that ''the antidote to racism is excellence in performance,'' as retired Lt. Col. Herbert Carter once remarked.

Mr. Speaker, Black History Month is also a time to remember many pioneering women like U.S. Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm; activists Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks; astronaut Mae C. Jemison; authors Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Gwendolyn Brooks; all of whom have each in their own way, whether through courageous activism, cultural contributions, or artistic creativity, forged social and political change, and forever changed our great Nation for the better.

It is also fitting, Mr. Speaker, that in addition to those national leaders whose contributions

have made our nation better, we honor also those who have and are making a difference in their local communities.

In my home city of Houston, there are numerous great men and women. They are great because they have heeded the counsel of Dr. King who said:

''Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.''

By that measure, I wish to pay tribute to some of the great men and women of Houston:

1. Rev. F.N. Williams, Sr.
2. Rev. Dr. S.J. Gilbert, Sr.
3. Rev. Crawford W. Kimble
4. Rev. Eldridge Stanley Branch
5. Rev. William A. Lawson
6. Rev. Johnnie Jeffery ''J.J.'' Robeson
7. Mr. El Franco Lee
8. Mr. John Brand
9. Ms. Ruby Moseley
10. Ms. Dorothy Hubbard
11. Ms. Doris Hubbard
12. Ms. Willie Bell Boone
13. Ms. Holly HogoBrooks
14. Mr. Deloyd Parker
15. Ms. Lenora ''Doll'' Carter

As we celebrate Black History Month, let us pay tribute to those who have come before us, and pay forward to future generations by addressing what is the number one issue for African American families, and all American families today: preserving the American promise of economic opportunity for all.

Our immediate focus must be job creation, and enacting legislation that will foster and lay the foundation for today's and tomorrow's generation of groundbreaking activists, leaders, scientists, writers and artists to continue contributing to the greatness of America.

We must work to get Americans back to work.

We must continue to preserve the American Dream for all.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here in celebration of the heroic and historic acts of African Americans and their indispensable contributions to this great Nation.

It is through our work in creating possibilities for today and future generations that we best honor the accomplishments and legacy of our predecessors.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when President Barack Obama delivered his final State of the Union address last month, he highlighted the resilience and determination of the American people. The President touted notable achievements in scientific advancement, greater transparency throughout our political system, and a stronger and more equitable economy as evidence pointing to the strength of our Nation.

For context, in the final month of President George W. Bush's presidency, the economy was in free fall. The private sector lost nearly 820,000 jobs in the final month of President Bush's presidency alone and unemployment peaked at around 10 percent in the midst of the Great Recession. Today, the economy has added 14.1 million jobs over 70 consecutive months of private-sector job growth, household wealth has increased by more than $30 trillion, and average home prices have recovered to pre-recession levels under President Obama's Administration. However, economic indicators are not the only method for determining the true state of our union.

As we celebrate Black History Month in February, it is timely to consider how other great leaders from our past would perceive the state of our union today. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is one such leader who envisioned a greater future for our Nation in the face of unspeakable discrimination and intolerance. In his famous ''I Have a Dream'' speech delivered at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., Dr. King laid out his vision of our country where all men are created equal and where freedom must ring if America is to be a great nation.

Today, those principles ring true. We have made great progress as a nation to move away from the darkest moments of our past. Yet, there is still much work to be done. We have witnessed continued efforts to disenfranchise select groups of voters by gutting the Voting Rights Act and persistent racial tension between law enforcement and the communities they are sworn to protect. It is a constant struggle that afflicts communities all across the United States and suggests that more work needs to be done if we are to achieve Dr. King's dream.

Mr. Speaker, the freedoms we enjoy in the United States are not absolute. The principles and values that define our Nation are constantly challenged and ever-evolving. Dr. King had a distinct vision for the future of our Nation and his legacy can help guide our decisions moving into the future so that we can avoid making the same mistakes of our past.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, each February our nation takes time to reflect on the countless contributions African Americans have made to this country's history. We celebrate innovators like Ohio District 11's own Langston Hughes, pioneers like astronaut Mae Jamison, as well as political and civil rights leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Black History Month represents inclusion and innovation. It promotes America at its best. For in this month, we appreciate our collective strength and recognize the diversity of each and every patriot.

America is a country of immigrants, and our power lies in our differences. To quote Dr. King, ''We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now.''

No matter how we arrived, every American should have access to the same opportunity. Every individual should be able to reach his or her own potential and succeed in the home of the free and the land of the brave.

Unfortunately, many do not have equitable access to opportunity. This is why the Congressional Black Caucus stands today.

Despite the contributions and sacrifice of African Americans, many still suffer from the effects of historic injustice and prejudice. We are almost three times more likely to live in poverty than Whites, and six times more likely to be put in jail. Our unemployment rate is nearly two times the rates of Whites. When we do find work, we make less than our White counterparts.

As Black America reflects on its current situation, many tend to ask questions such as, ''What would Dr. King do?'' or ''How would the civil rights leaders of the past address the issues of the present?''

If Dr. King was alive today, I believe he would certainly be proud of who we are. But he would also say that we must commit ourselves to moving forward together as one people and one nation.

It is time we ''fix our politics.'' Not just in Washington, but everywhere.

As President Barack Obama stated recently, ''We are in a time of extraordinary change.'' The Members of this House have the opportunity to pass policies that reverse years of bigotry and injustice and level the playing field for all.

This Black History Month, I urge my Congressional colleagues to celebrate through legislative action. Develop a new formula to ensure the right to vote for all Americans. Reauthorize the Higher Education Act to help more kids go to college. Combat harsh sentencing through criminal justice reform.

These actions won't just honor a race of people. They will further the hope and success of an entire nation.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today and February 2 on account of a family emergency.

Ms. JACKSON LEE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business.

EXPENDITURES BY THE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL UNDER HOUSE RESOLUTION 676, 113TH CONGRESS

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 29, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 3(b) of H. Res. 676 of the 113th Congress, as continued by section 3(f)(2) of H. Res. 5 of the 114th Congress, I write with the following enclosure which is a statement of the aggregate amount expended on outside counsel and other experts on any civil action authorized by H. Res. 676.

Sincerely,

CANDICE S. MILLER,
Chairman.

AGGREGATE AMOUNT EXPENDED ON OUTSIDE COUNSEL OR OTHER EXPERTS

[H. Res. 676]

July 1–September 30, 2014	
October 1–December 31, 2014	$42,875.00
January 1–March 31, 2015	50,000.00
April 1, 2015–June 30, 2015	29,915.00
July 1–September 30, 2015	21,000.00
October 1–December 31, 2015	45,707.67
Total	189,497.67

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, February 2, 2016, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4156. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Removal of Jet Route J-477; Northwestern United States [Docket No.: FAA-2015-6002; Airspace Docket No.: 15-ANM-26] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 27, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4157. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Restricted Areas R-2932, R-2933, R-2934, and R-2935; Cape Canaveral, FL [Docket No.: FAA-2015-7213; Airspace Docket No.: 15-ASO-12] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 27, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4158. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0828; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-146-AD; Amendment 39-18341; AD 2015-25-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 27, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4159. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0300; Directorate Identifier 2011-NM-163-AD; Amendment 39-18339; AD 2015-25-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 27, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4160. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0675; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-213-AD; Amendment 39-18340; AD 2015-25-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 27, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4161. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Piper Aircraft, Inc. [Docket No.: FAA-2015-8311; Directorate Identifier 2015-CE-039-AD; Amendment 39-18356; AD 2015-26-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 27, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4162. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-1281; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-241-AD; Amendment 39-18346; AD 2015-25-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 27, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4163. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0625; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-044-AD; Amendment 39-18343; AD 2015-25-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 27, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3382. A bill to amend the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act to enhance recreational opportunities, environmental restoration activities, and forest management activities in the Lake Tahoe Basin, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114–404, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MILLER of Florida: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 677. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments to be made automatically by law each year in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans' with an amendment (Rept. 114–405). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 2187. A bill to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise its regulations regarding the qualifications of natural persons as accredited investors; with an amendment (Rept. 114–406). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 2209. A bill to require the appropriate Federal banking agencies to treat certain municipal obligations as level 2A liquid assets, and for other purposes (Rept. 114–407). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3784. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to establish an Office of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation and a Small Business Capital Formation Advisory Committee, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114–408). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4168. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Incentive Act of 1980 to require an annual review by the Securities and Exchange Commission of the annual government-business forum on capital formation that is held pursuant to such Act (Rept. 114–409). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan: Committee on House Administration. H.R. 1670. A bill to direct the Architect of the Capitol to place in the United States Capitol a chair honoring American Prisoners of War/Missing in Action (Rept. 114–410). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. STIVERS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 594. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3700) to provide housing opportunities in the United States through modernization of various housing programs, and for other purposes (Rept. 114–411). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committees on Agriculture and Transportation and Infrastructure discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3382 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 4398. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for requirements relating to documentation for major acquisition programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BONAMICI, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. ESTY, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HIMES, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MOORE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TSONGAS, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ):

H.R. 4399. A bill to repeal the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, and provide for the discoverability and admissibility of gun trace information in civil proceedings; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD (for himself and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana):

H.R. 4400. A bill to expand the tropical disease product priority review voucher program to encourage treatments for Zika virus; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LOUDERMILK (for himself, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. KATKO, Mr. HURD of Texas, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. REICHERT, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. KEATING, Mr. VELA, and Mr. PAYNE):

H.R. 4401. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to provide countering violent extremism training to Department of Homeland Security representatives at State and local fusion centers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. HURD of Texas (for himself, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. KATKO, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. VELA, and Mr. PAYNE):

H.R. 4402. A bill to require a review of information regarding persons who have traveled or attempted to travel from the United States to support terrorist organizations in Syria and Iraq, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. HURD of Texas (for himself, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. KATKO, Mr.

LOUDERMILK, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. VELA, and Mr. PAYNE):

H.R. 4403. A bill to authorize the development of open-source software based on certain systems of the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of State to facilitate the vetting of travelers against terrorist watchlists and law enforcement databases, enhance border management, and improve targeting and analysis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MCSALLY (for herself, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. KATKO, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. VELA, and Mr. PAYNE):

H.R. 4404. A bill to require an exercise related to terrorist and foreign fighter travel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. ISRAEL (for himself, Mr. TONKO, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 4405. A bill to require institutions of higher education to notify students whether student housing facilities are equipped with automatic fire sprinkler systems; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. WALBERG (for himself, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. GUTHRIE, and Mr. HECK of Nevada):

H.R. 4406. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to train certain Department of Labor personnel how to effectively detect and assist law enforcement in preventing human trafficking during the course of their primary roles and responsibilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. KATKO (for himself, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. KEATING, Mr. VELA, and Mr. PAYNE):

H.R. 4407. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish in the Department of Homeland Security a board to coordinate and integrate departmental intelligence, activities, and policy related to counterterrorism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. KATKO (for himself, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. KEATING, Mr. VELA, and Mr. PAYNE):

H.R. 4408. A bill to require the development of a national strategy to combat terrorist travel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. CARNEY (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 4409. A bill to direct the Federal Trade Commission to establish labels that may be used as a voluntary means of indicating to consumers the extent to which products are of United States origin, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. MOORE, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H.R. 4410. A bill to permit expungement of records of certain nonviolent criminal offenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 4411. A bill to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 4412. A bill to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HUNTER (for himself and Mr. VARGAS):

H.R. 4413. A bill to prohibit the use of funds to provide assistance to the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency under the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 4414. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to notify the public if a State agency and public water system are not taking action to address a public health risk associated with drinking water requirements; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. LAWRENCE (for herself, Ms. MOORE, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. LEE, and Mr. HONDA):

H.R. 4415. A bill to establish an Early Federal Pell Grant Commitment Program; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself and Mr. DELANEY):

H.R. 4416. A bill to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MOULTON:

H.R. 4417. A bill to deauthorize portions of the project for navigation, Essex River, Massachusetts; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. NORTON (for herself and Mr. WITTMAN):

H.R. 4418. A bill to amend chapter 77 of title 5, United States Code, to clarify certain due process rights of Federal employees serving in sensitive positions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 4419. A bill to update the financial disclosure requirements for judges of the District of Columbia courts; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. POLIQUIN (for himself and Mr. JORDAN):

H.R. 4420. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to provide that certain convicted felons shall be ineligible to participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H.R. 4421. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Colonel Charles Young, in recognition of his pioneering career in the United States Army during exceptionally challenging times; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. RICHMOND (for himself, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. ELLISON):

H.R. 4422. A bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to provide that the United States Postal Service may provide certain basic financial services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 4423. A bill to provide for a program of wind energy research, development, and demonstration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska (for himself, Mr. TAKAI, Mr. WALZ, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. ASHFORD, and Mr. ROONEY of Florida):

H.R. 4424. A bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to increase the maximum reimbursement amount authorized for travel expenses incurred by certain members of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve to attend inactive duty training outside of normal commuting distances; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. SEWELL of Alabama:

H. Con. Res. 109. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal to the foot soldiers who participated in the 1965 Selma to Montgomery marches; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California (for herself, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H. Res. 593. A resolution expressing support for designation of the week of February 1, 2016, through February 5, 2016, as ''National School Counseling Week''; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 4398.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. SCHIFF:

H.R. 4399.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Equal Access to Justice for Victims of Gun Violence is constitutionally authorized under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, the Necessary and Proper Clause. Additionally, the Preamble to the Constitution provides support of the authority to enact legislation to promote the General Welfare.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD:

H.R. 4400.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority in which this bill rests is the power of the Congress to regulate Commerce as enumerated by Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 as applied to healthcare.

By Mr. LOUDERMILK:

H.R. 4401.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. HURD of Texas:

H.R. 4402.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for

carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. HURD of Texas:

H.R. 4403.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. MCSALLY:

H.R. 4404.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 4405.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8, clause 18.

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 4406.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. KATKO:

H.R. 4407.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. KATKO:

H.R. 4408.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. CARNEY:

H.R. 4409.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Artilce I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power *** To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power *** To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 4410.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 4411.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 4412.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HUNTER:

H.R. 4413.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 4414.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section VIII

By Mrs. LAWRENCE:

H.R. 4415.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Artle I, Section 9, Clause 7

No oney shall be drawn from the Treasury but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Accound of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 4416.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution: The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States but all duties, imposts, and excises shall be uniform throughout.

By Mr. MOULTON:

H.R. 4417.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 4418.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 4419.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 17 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. POLIQUIN:

H.R. 4420.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 grants Congress the power to ''regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States.''

By Mr. RANGEL:

H.R. 4421.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. RICHMOND:

H.R. 4422.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is introduced pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 7; Article I, Section 8, Clause 1; Article I, Section 8, Clause, 18; and Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

Further, this statement of constitutional authority is made for the sole purpose of compliance with clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and shall have no bearing on judicial review of the accompanying bill.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 4423.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 4424.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution (clauses 12, 13, 14, 16, and 18), which grants Congress the power to raise and support an Army; to provide and maintain a Navy; to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces; to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia; and to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the foregoing powers.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 27: Mr. WILLIAMS.
H.R. 38: Mrs. WAGNER.
H.R. 192: Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 213: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 228: Mr. NUGENT and Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 244: Mr. JONES.
H.R. 250: Mr. POMPEO and Mr. COFFMAN.
H.R. 267: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 320: Ms. JENKINS of Kansas.
H.R. 343: Mr. ZELDIN.
H.R. 358: Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 379: Mrs. BLACK and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.
H.R. 400: Mr. MACARTHUR.
H.R. 430: Mr. COSTA and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 446: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 499: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 551: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 605: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 654: Mr. GIBBS, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 696: Mr. MEEHAN.
H.R. 703: Mr. PITTS.
H.R. 790: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
H.R. 793: Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BUSTOS, and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 802: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 815: Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California.
H.R. 842: Mr. GARRETT, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. FARR, and Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 845: Ms. JENKINS of Kansas.
H.R. 849: Mr. JOLLY.
H.R. 870: Mr. POLIS, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 909: Mr. CRAMER.
H.R. 915: Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 927: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 953: Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. DOLD.
H.R. 994: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 1061: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 1076: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 1089: Mr. HIGGINS and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 1112: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 1125: Mr. JOLLY and Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 1150: Mr. SALMON and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 1198: Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 1220: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.
H.R. 1258: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.
H.R. 1288: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DUFFY, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 1292: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 1301: Mr. PEARCE and Mr. O'ROURKE.
H.R. 1397: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. BOST, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. GUTHRIE, and Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 1427: Mr. SALMON and Mrs. Watson Coleman.
H.R. 1475: Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 1550: Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 1559: Mr. CRENSHAW and Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 1565: Mr. WELCH, Mr. POCAN, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 1567: Mr. CLAWSON of Florida and Mrs. TORRES.
H.R. 1586: Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 1608: Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. JOLLY, and Mr. PAULSEN.
H.R. 1703: Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 1763: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 1848: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 1854: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 1902: Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 1904: Mr. WALKER and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 1905: Mr. WALKER.
H.R. 1942: Mr. DOGGETT and Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 2016: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Mr. POLIS.
H.R. 2083: Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 2093: Mr. BRIDENSTINE.
H.R. 2104: Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 2156: Mr. RATCLIFFE.
H.R. 2209: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 2255: Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.
H.R. 2257: Mr. COFFMAN.
H.R. 2264: Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 2266: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. VELA, and Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 2274: Miss RICE of New York.
H.R. 2283: Ms. LEE.
H.R. 2290: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2300: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H.R. 2313: Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 2334: Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 2411: Mr. DELANEY, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 2434: Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 2519: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2524: Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 2526: Mr. LAHOOD.
H.R. 2544: Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 2568: Mr. RATCLIFFE.
H.R. 2602: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 2653: Mr. COOK.
H.R. 2663: Mr. VALADAO, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. HASTINGS, and Mrs. LOVE.
H.R. 2669: Mr. TED LIEU of California.
H.R. 2730: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 2874: Ms. DUCKWORTH and Mr. BRAT.
H.R. 2901: Mr. SCALISE.
H.R. 2972: Mr. RICHMOND and Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 3012: Mr. CRAMER and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.
H.R. 3029: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 3036: Mr. NUNES and Mr. CROWLEY.
H.R. 3092: Mr. O'ROURKE.
H.R. 3103: Mr. PEARCE.
H.R. 3110: Mr. SHIMKUS and Mr. ROONEY of Florida.
H.R. 3119: Mr. JOYCE, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. ASHFORD, and Mr. HARPER.
H.R. 3159: Ms. JACKSON LEE and Mr. WALZ.
H.R. 3180: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 3222: Mr. RATCLIFFE.
H.R. 3224: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 3225: Mr. HARPER.
H.R. 3248: Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 3326: Mrs. BEATTY.
H.R. 3337: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 3345: Mr. GALLEGO.
H.R. 3355: Mr. ADERHOLT.
H.R. 3365: Mr. VAN HOLLEN and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 3381: Ms. DEGETTE and Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.
H.R. 3406: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 3411: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ.
H.R. 3520: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.
H.R. 3546: Mr. CARTWRIGHT and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 3566: Mr. RATCLIFFE.
H.R. 3579: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 3619: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 3640: Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 3677: Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 3687: Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 3698: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H.R. 3710: Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 3711: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 3720: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 3742: Mr. HURT of Virginia, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
H.R. 3746: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 3799: Mr. LABRADOR, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mr. CHAFFETZ, and Mr. FARENTHOLD.
H.R. 3805: Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 3818: Mr. YOHO.
H.R. 3852: Ms. KUSTER and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 3886: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. BEATTY, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 3892: Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. BUCK, Mr. LOUDERMILK, and Mr. ROUZER.
H.R. 3936: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 3940: Mr. RATCLIFFE and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 3952: Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.R. 3957: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN,
H.R. 3965: Mr. TED LIEU of California.
H.R. 3970: Ms. FUDGE.
H.R. 4000: Mr. RENACCI.
H.R. 4003: Mr. GOHMERT.
H.R. 4009: Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 4013: Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 4019: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 4026: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.
H.R. 4043: Mr. MCDERMOTT and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 4055: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 4062: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa and Mr. SMITH of Texas.
H.R. 4073: Mr. SIRES, Mr. KEATING, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, and Mr. COFFMAN.
H.R. 4080: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 4084: Mr. GARRETT.
H.R. 4087: Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.
H.R. 4126: Mr. BUCHANAN and Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia.
H.R. 4137: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 4177: Mr. NUGENT.
H.R. 4184: Mr. POLIS.
H.R. 4185: Mr. THORNBERRY and Mr. NEWHOUSE.
H.R. 4196: Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 4210: Mr. BARR and Mr. POSEY.
H.R. 4212: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. LEWIS.
H.R. 4219: Mr. MEADOWS and Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 4230: Ms. PINGREE, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. LEE, Ms. ESTY, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. MENG, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. BASS, Mr. HASTINGS, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 4249: Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. BASS, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 4253: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 4262: Mr. STEWART and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H.R. 4271: Mr. POSEY.
H.R. 4273: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 4279: Mr. MICA.
H.R. 4293: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 4294: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 4295: Ms. BASS.
H.R. 4298: Mr. FARR.
H.R. 4301: Mr. MILLER of Florida and Mr. STEWART.
H.R. 4313: Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, and Mrs. LOVE.
H.R. 4324: Mr. COHEN and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 4336: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 4348: Mr. PALAZZO and Mr. NEWHOUSE.
H.R. 4350: Mr. EMMER of Minnesota.
H.R. 4352: Mr. BRAT.
H.R. 4364: Ms. FUDGE and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 4378: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.
H.R. 4380: Mr. TED LIEU of California and Mr. HONDA.
H.J. Res. 74: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania and Mr. RATCLIFFE.
H. Con. Res. 75: Mr. LEVIN and Ms. MENG.
H. Con. Res. 88: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H. Con. Res. 99: Mr. WELCH.
H. Con. Res. 100: Mr. FLEMING and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.
H. Con. Res. 105: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia.
H. Res. 12: Mr. O'ROURKE.
H. Res. 14: Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. GIBSON, Ms. GABBARD, and Mr. WALZ.
H. Res. 194: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ.
H. Res. 220: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Mr. QUIGLEY.
H. Res. 265: Mr. HANNA.
H. Res. 289: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. MOORE, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H. Res. 343: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. NORCROSS, and Mr. RATCLIFFE.
H. Res. 451: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. FLORES.
H. Res. 469: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H. Res. 494: Mr. MESSER, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. LATTA, Mr. SALMON, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. ROTHFUS, and Mrs. LOVE.
H. Res. 501: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mrs. BLACK, and Mr. GALLEGO.
H. Res. 509: Mr. CONNOLLY.
H. Res. 551: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. RUSSELL, Mr. SALMON, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. COHEN.
H. Res. 554: Mr. EMMER of Minnesota.
H. Res. 569: Ms. SPEIER, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. WALZ, and Mrs. LOWEY.

H. Res. 571: Mr. BARR and Mrs. BLACK.

H. Res. 582: Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. MULLIN, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. NUGENT, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, and Mr. COLLINS of New York.

H. Res. 586: Ms. HAHN, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. COHEN.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 546: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1019: Mr. FARENTHOLD.

H.R. 1401: Mr. FARENTHOLD.